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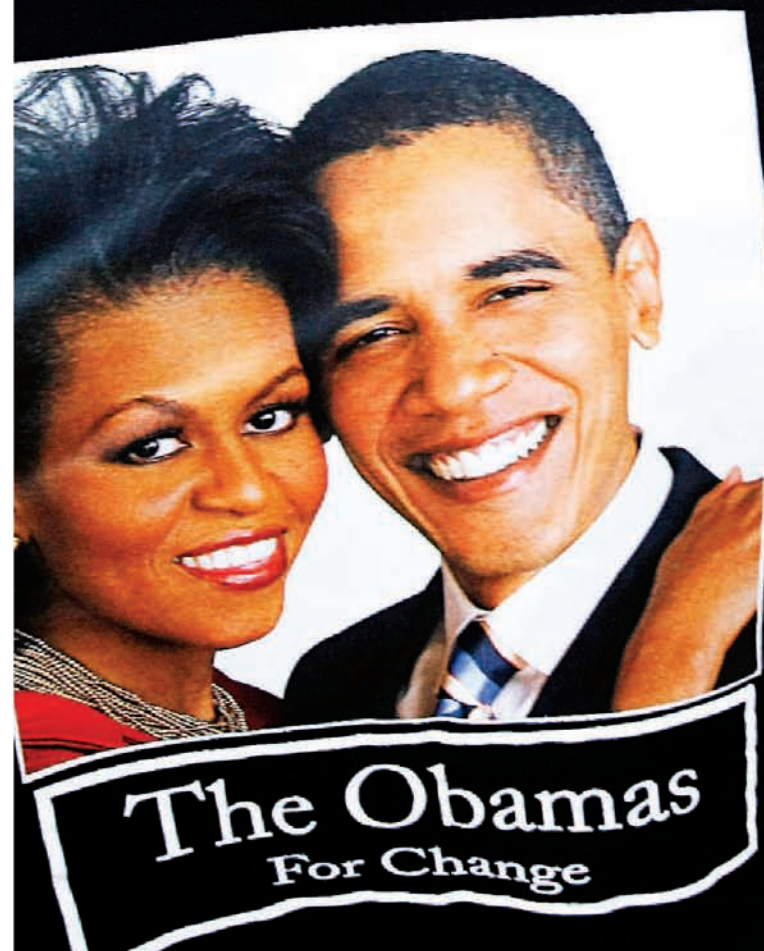
Wednesday
NOVEMBER 19, 2008

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune
publication

★ **FREE** ★

PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE



CHICAGO'S **MOST FAMOUS NEIGHBORHOOD**

Obama's rise to the White House
puts Hyde Park on the map 6-7



2do

» Find out what others are reading at litmob.com

To win

Donate \$20 to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theater (24 W. Randolph St.) and you could win a walk-on role for a performance of "Wicked."

To drink

Sip on Andy Warhol-inspired cocktails and view advertisements the artist crafted for Martini & Rossi Vermouth in 1956 at a free reception from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Whiskey Sky (644 N. Lakeshore Drive). RSVP to chlhappenings@whotels.com.

To train

Sign up for three or more personal training sessions during November at Galter LifeCenter (5157 N. Francisco Ave.) and you'll save \$15 and get a free stainless steel water bottle.

To read

Check out book reviews and find out what indie artists and other Chicagoans are reading at litmob.com.

Aye, aye caption **txtable**

Text us a funny caption for the photo at right and we'll print the best in Thursday's RedEye. To give it a shot text the word "caption" followed by your brief caption and your name to **47383**. Good luck!

TUESDAY'S WINNER:

"Women! Discover the latest way to meditate and give your floors a glossy shine!"
—KBG

**40²⁹****TODAY'S FORECAST**

Partly cloudy

**THU.****36²⁰**

Partly cloudy

**FRI.****34²³**

Sunny, but cold

**SAT.****38²⁸**

Sun's back

**SUN.****42²⁹**

A little warmer

**WHAT'S THE DEAL?****Bahamania**

Hotels and destinations hard-hit by the economic downturn are offering deals. The Associated Press reports. The Bahamas' Atlantis megaresort (left), with nearly 3,000 rooms on Paradise Island, is now offering a three-night package starting at \$299 a person, including two sessions interacting with dolphins (normally \$110 each), and \$99 airfare each way on JetBlue from New York, \$89 from Boston (book by Dec. 18, offer ends Dec. 25, atlantis.com, blackouts apply). In addition, the Nassau Paradise Island Promotion Board is offering a \$250 rebate on air-inclusive packages (three- to six-night stays, book through Nov. 30, for travel completed by Feb. 28).

» Got a deal you want to share? E-mail ritaredeye@tribune.com. We're also on Twitter: [@redeye](https://twitter.com/redeye).

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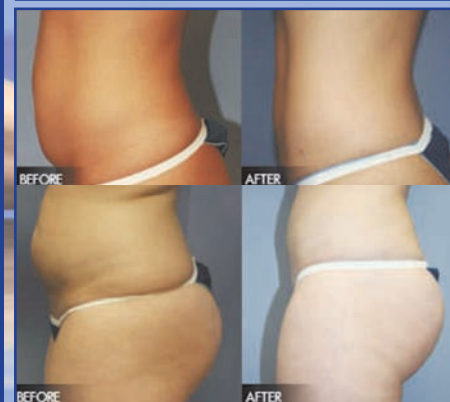
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- Also great for skin tightening.

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A passenger looks at monitors showing numerous delayed and canceled flights earlier this year. Holiday travel season is expected to be as busy as ever this year. GETTY IMAGES FILE

TRAVEL BITS

Bagging it

United Airlines announced last week that it's dropping its plan to increase the price of a second checked bag to \$50. The price will remain \$25 for the second checked bag, and although the first checked bag will still cost \$15, customers can get a 20 percent discount on the first by paying for it online until Jan. 31.

AirTran is joining the legacy carriers with its new \$15 fee for the first checked bag for trips booked on or after Nov. 12. The second-bag fee will remain \$25.

Plug in

If you're cooling your heels in Hosea Kutako International Airport in Windhoek, Namibia, looking for an outlet, it might help you to learn that under the fire hydrant on the left-hand side of the boarding area there is a power outlet that takes South African three-prong plugs.

Not so useful? Well, maybe it would be good to know that the tables at the Volo wine bar in C Concourse at Washington's Dulles International Airport have two electrical outlets at each table.

This info comes from AirPower Wiki, which offers tidbits on about 110 airports. The information is spotty, but also points out free WiFi in some places and even a staircase in Minneapolis where there's outlets "and pure peace and quiet."

AirPower is the brainchild of a Microsoft team leader, Jeff Sandquist. It's the nature of a wiki that the information is only as accurate as the volunteers who feed it. Go to airpower.jeffsandquist.com. WASHINGTON POST

TWITTER TRIPS

We asked RedEye's followers on Twitter about their holiday travel plans. Hop on board the RedEye Twitter train at twitter.com/redeyechicago.

nfloresy: I had to cancel other trips to afford my Thanksgiving trip to Texas. Airplane ticket prices are ridiculous! Close to \$1,000!

Cristin-Zaragoza: I'm driving down to Atlanta to visit with the boyfriend's relatives. We're taking my Chevy Aveo instead of his Jetta to save gas.

Jessio: I'm taking the train home instead of driving ...

AIRSPACE JAM

Flights expected to be just as jam-packed for Thanksgiving

Associated Press

WASHINGTON The government is opening some military airspace to ease airline congestion over Thanksgiving and Christmas, though the effort is likely to have only limited results. And if the weather's bad, all bets are off.

President Bush announced Tuesday he's expanding the Thanksgiving express lanes in the Midwest, the Southwest and the West Coast. That's in addition to the East Coast corridors, which also were freed up for holiday traffic last year.

The military uses the space for exercises, but often makes some available to commercial planes on an ad hoc basis.

Approximately 24 million passengers are expected to fly over the 12 days around the Thanksgiving holiday this year, said David Castelveter, a spokesman for the Air Transport Association, which represents the airline industry. That's about 10 percent fewer than last year, but airlines also have removed about 10 percent of their capacity from the system, meaning

WET WEATHER?

The National Weather Service says New York and New England should be wetter and colder than normal Thanksgiving week, and much of the rest of the East Coast and Southeast will be cold but dry. Northern California will be wetter than usual, and the rest of the nation will be normal or warmer and drier.

planes will be just as crowded. Castelveter said airplanes will be about 90 percent full at peak travel times and will be 100 percent full in key markets.

Making highways in the sky that are normally restricted to the military open to commercial airliners may get planes from one airport to another faster, but they'll still have to contend with bottlenecks at the nation's busier airports when they arrive.

Doug Church, a spokesman for the air traffic controllers union, said one result of airplanes arriving faster could be more planes circling busy airports and running low on fuel.

"Our point is that they don't have a plan to get them on the ground any faster," Church said. "This plan does nothing to relieve the congestion at the airports that are the traditional hotspots."

Transportation Department spokesman Brian Turmail said that by signaling to airlines in advance that the military corridors will be available, they will be able to consider these fast lanes in their flight plans to avoid unnecessary circling.

Castelveter said some airliners may be able to get off the ground faster if there's an extra corridor to send them to, and that added corridors also can speed up planes to less congested airports, where they don't have to wait.

But he also acknowledged: "If you do all of these things and you get hit by bad weather, you're still going to have delays."

Bush also announced other steps to ease holiday air travel. He said his administration was working with the Federal Aviation Administration, the Transportation Security Administration and the airlines to make more staff available to speed check-ins and boarding.

The president also said new regulations that raise the amount airlines must pay to travelers for lost bags and for failing to notify passengers about hidden fees will be in place in time for the Christmas travel crush. Another recently implemented rule requires airlines to pay higher bump fees to passengers when they are ticketed but travelers wind up without a seat.



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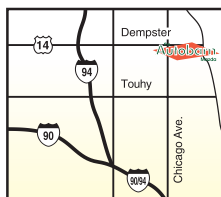
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hey, cta

Have something to say about public transit in Chicago? Send your ideas and opinions to goingpublic@tribune.com.

"It seems to me that the responsible Chicagoans, who are taking public transportation as opposed to driving, are actually being penalized for it with these fare hikes. Why can't the city raise speeding ticket fines and give more cell phone/driving tickets to generate revenue for the CTA?"

Express route to frustration

Are you getting impatient with public transit progress at shuttered stops, particularly as wintry weather swoops in? On Tuesday, "Going Public" columnist Kyra Kyles provided updates on the approximate reopening of Brown Line stops and a downtown pedway. Good and bad news abounded. On another track: Riders got an array of issues off their chests, from fare hikes to slow service on the Blue Line.

Drivers should bridge budget gap

[CTA President] Ron Huberman is the "irresponsible" one here. It seems to me that the responsible Chicagoans, who are taking public transportation as opposed to driving, are actually being penalized for it with these fare hikes. Why can't the city raise speeding ticket fines and give more cell phone/driving tickets to generate revenue for the CTA? The city should penalize the Chicagoans who live three blocks from an "L" station and still drive to the Loop. —CRESTON WREN, 30, WRIGLEYVILLE

Missed connection

What in the name of sanity is going on with the Blue Line? Once again, it took over 8 minutes to get from Harlem to Forest Park (usually about a 1-minute ordeal), meaning I missed my Pace [Route] 747 bus to Oak Brook. The next one wasn't due for over an hour, so once again I took a cab to work, costing me \$30. This is habitual—when I talk to the CTA, they blame Pace, and vice versa. Please get it together with these end-of-line transfers. I've spent at least \$200 in just over a year. Either own up to the fact that you need to mesh your schedules, run the 747 a little more often or get me a voucher. I can't afford this anymore. —STEVEN KELLERT, 34, EDGEWATER

Rethink this route

I ride the No. 14-Jeffery Express bus throughout the work week. The ride is actually pleasant, short and sweet. The problem occurs when the bus stops at 11th [Street] and Columbus [Avenue]. The walk, which seems more like a hike, to get to Roosevelt [Road] and Michigan [Avenue] to catch the No. 12-Roosevelt is such an inconvenience for commuters. No one benefits from the bus stop being in this location, so we all hike to Roosevelt and Michigan. I want to know if the Chicago Transit Authority can look into changing this route so it can be convenient for all riders. —KIESHA LAMBERT, 39, SOUTH SIDE

Not a way to start your day

More buses are needed on the [No. 4]-Cottage Grove route. It is a mess in the morning. The buses are so crowded that drivers refuse to move them. There are no straps on which to hold. HELP! The group is a mixture of schoolchildren and people going to work. Check out Cottage [Grove Avenue] and 71st [Street] from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. —GLADYS HARDNICK-BOUYER, 63, GREATER GRAND CROSSING



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Hyde Society

Most people may know it as Obama's 'hood, but locals have long known the Park's perks

By Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz
REDEYE

The next president of the United States lives in a stately red brick house on South Greenwood Avenue, across the street from a synagogue, just over the Hyde Park border in a tony section of Kenwood.

For anyone who has tried to catch a glimpse of the Obama family abode in recent months, that's about all you get. Concrete barricades and around-the-clock security prevent anyone from driving or walking down Barack Obama's block. Since the election, cars are barred from going down a three-block stretch of Hyde Park Boulevard, across the street from which pedestrian tourists futilely angle for a decent photo of the now-historic home.

Obama's historic presidential campaign has put Chicago in the spotlight, and the glare shines brightest in the Hyde Park area, which has seen an influx of guys in flak jackets, foreign media and tourists looking to buy Obama souvenirs in his very own neighborhood.

Now that the Illinois Tourism Bureau has updated its three-day "Presidential Trails" getaways to include Obama's haunts, Hyde Park-Kenwood can expect the attention to swell.

"This is a huge opportunity for us to characterize just what's special about Hyde Park and the University of Chicago, and to not be a flyover for people who only care about what's on the coasts," said Bob Rosenberg, associate vice president for communications at the University of Chicago.

So what is so special about Hyde Park?

Residents say it's the diversity, the intellectual rigor, the civic engagement, the small-town vibe.

"I always felt like I was a Hyde Parker, not a Chicagoan," said Hyde Park native Laurel Stradford, owner of What the Traveler Saw, a store on 55th Street that sells accessories from Stradford's world travels.

People are friendlier, more willing to chat, more eager to get to know their neighbors, Stradford said. When she lived downtown after grad school, "I don't think I got to meet half a dozen people," she remembers.

The "Cheers"-like sensibility thrives in the racially mixed community. Hyde Park's population is equal parts black and white and has a sizable Asian presence—an anomaly on the South Side, which is overwhelmingly African-American.

And while many of its neighboring communities are impoverished and struggling to climb out of decay, Hyde Park boasts multimillion-dollar homes and a robust middle class along with low-income residents in public housing. A study released this year by DePaul University declared Hyde Park the most income-diverse neighborhood in Chicago. (Not that it isn't pricey; a typical one-bedroom rents for \$900 a month, said James Daugherty, a sales and leasing consultant at Apartment Finders' Hyde Park office. The median cost to buy a condo or townhouse is \$205,000, according to the Chicago Association of Realtors.)

Hyde Park's diversity is a major selling point.

Heather Dalmage, sociology professor at Roosevelt University, moved to Hyde Park specifically so that her young children, who are of mixed race, could grow up in a diverse environment.

"When you're a mixed family, you can't live in a whole lot of places comfortably," said Dalmage, who is white and whose husband is black.

Hyde Park has "a different sensibility," Dalmage

said. "You have more freedom. You're less likely to be stared at, or for people to make comments."

Still, tensions exist.

John Edgerton, a University of Chicago Divinity School student who grew up in Hyde Park, notes that while the neighborhood is diverse, the university is mostly white (just 7 percent of undergrad students were black in 2007), and fear of crime among some students lines up along racial lines.

"Because we are positioned amid very depressed areas, there is a great deal of fearfulness about crime and violence that is being blamed on surrounding black communities," Edgerton, 26, said. The murder last year of Senegalese grad student Amadou Cisse happened in Woodlawn, just a couple of blocks south of the Hyde Park border.

Gabriel Piemonte, editor of the Hyde Park Herald, remembers his own hesitance about moving to Hyde Park from Rogers Park nine years ago.

"All of my friends were like, 'You can't live on the South Side. You're not going to like it,'" Piemonte said. But the fine bookstores and beauty of the lakefront's Promontory Point drew him in, and "over time, it was the people," Piemonte said.

"This is the kind of place where you can sink your roots," Piemonte said. "This is a neighborhood people care about and are committed to."

People care a lot, and any proposed changes tend to provoke lengthy debate among residents with differing ideas about how things should be. ("Probably," Piemonte says, "we're a neighborhood that takes itself too seriously.")

Duane Powell, who works at Dr. Wax record store in the Harper Court shopping center, misses the days when people from all walks of life filled the courtyard to play chess late into the night and teach young people the game. The chess tables were removed in 2002 because of concerns the area was drawing drug and gang activity.

"The only thing they got rid of was the thinking people," said Powell, 37, who moved from Hyde Park to neighboring Washington Park in 2004.

The clash of ideas is Hyde Park's strength, said the U. of C.'s Rosenberg. One of the frustrating things during the presidential campaign was that Hyde Park and the university were consistently characterized as either a haven of the liberal elite, or a resting place for neoconservative thinking, Rosenberg said.

"We are all those things and more. We are acceptant of all the different voices," Rosenberg said, noting that Obama embodies those values.

"It's our sense of pragmatism, our openness to diversity, that make this place special."

ALEXIAJALDERUIZ@TRIBUNE.COM



Hyde Park by the numbers

It has long had a reputation as a highly educated and racially diverse community, far safer and more affluent than many of its neighbors on the South Side.

Here's a snapshot of Hyde Park, officially defined by the city as the area bordered by 51st Street to the north, 60th Street to the south, Cottage Grove Avenue to the west and Lake Michigan to the east. All figures are based on 2008 population estimates, except where otherwise noted. ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ

POPULATION

Hyde Park 29,469
Chicago 2.9 million

GENDER

Men 49% (Chicago: 49%)
Women 51% (Chicago: 51%)

INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTS

U.S.-born 82% (Chicago: 75%)
Foreign born 18% (Chicago: 25%)

RACE/ETHNICITY*

White Non-Hispanic 39% (Chicago: 28%)
Black 39% (Chicago: 35%)
Asian 13% (Chicago: 5%)
Hispanic 5% (Chicago: 30%)
Other 6% (Chicago: 20%)

* NUMBERS ADD UP TO MORE THAN 100 PERCENT BECAUSE RESPONDENTS COULD CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE RACE/ETHNICITY.

AGE

Children (under 18) 13% (Chicago: 25%)
Adults (18-54) 67% (Chicago: 56%)
Seniors (55 and older) 20% (Chicago: 19%)



(Clockwise, from above): Miwa Ishii browses Powell's Bookstore; a street sign congratulates President-elect Obama; Valois cooks dish up breakfast; Greg Lane and his son, Goodwin, take a salvaged gear from Acme Steel Company for a spin; David Smith and his son, Matthew, get their hair trimmed; and a replica of the Statue of the Republic from the 1893 World's Fair. **BRIAN J. MOROWCZYNSKI FOR REDEYE**



txtable

Barack Obama isn't the only famous Hyde Parker. Which of the following have called the 'hood home at some point? Text **"resident"** and the number of your answer to **47383**. You'll get a text back saying whether you got it right.

1. John Cusack
2. Hugh Hefner
3. Jenny McCarthy
4. Liz Phair

CRIME*

Murders 0 (Chicago: 442)
Criminal sexual assault 10 (Chicago: 1,599)
Robbery 176 (Chicago: 15,426)
Aggravated assault 27 (Chicago: 6,283)
Aggravated battery 36 (Chicago: 11,145)
Burglary 176 (Chicago: 24,766)
Theft 775 (Chicago: 83,118)
Motor vehicle theft 131 (Chicago: 18,607)
Arson 1 (Chicago: 700)

* INCIDENTS REPORTED TO POLICE IN 2007.

EDUCATION*

Less than high school 6% (Chicago: 25%)
High school 8% (Chicago: 22%)
Some college 16% (Chicago: 20%)
Associate degrees 3% (Chicago: 5%)
Bachelor's degree 23% (Chicago: 17%)
Graduate degree 44% (Chicago: 11%)

* HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AMONG PEOPLE 25 AND OLDER.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Low-income (under \$35,000) 40% (Chicago: 38%)
Middle-income (\$35,000-\$99,999) 40% (Chicago: 45%)
High-income (\$100,000 and up) 19% (Chicago: 18%)

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME*

\$40,855 (Chicago: \$40,811) • 2005 ESTIMATES

SOURCES: METRO CHICAGO INFORMATION CENTER, CHICAGO POLICE

Nerd alert

What Hyde Park lacks in flash, it makes up for in brain power. Forty-four percent of Hyde Park residents have graduate degrees, compared with 11 percent citywide. The University of Chicago has spawned 81 Nobel Prize winners, including seven current faculty.

"It's nerdier than other places," Erin Lane, 30, said as she played with her two-year-old son at 57th Street Books. "You can't buy towels or underwear here, but you can go to, like, seven of the most incredible bookstores."

Indeed, Hyde Park lacks some conveniences. There are no big-box stores nearby, mostly because there's no space for them. There's no commercial movie theater. Before Treasure Island replaced the struggling Hyde Park Co-Op earlier this year, many people felt they had no grocery store.

To the chagrin of some university students, nightlife pickings are slim.

"It's just kind of boring," said Thomas Marks, 25, a student at the University of Chicago Law School.

The popular watering hole Woodlawn Tap, a college dive on 55th Street informally known as Jimmy's, gets old, he said. Not everyone likes Valois Cafeteria, a Hyde Park institution open since 1921, where professors rub elbows with homeless people, and where a heaping plate of baked chicken, mashed potatoes, corn on the cob and biscuits costs just \$6.63, including tax.

Hyde Park is getting some hipper options. Chant, a year-old restaurant and lounge on 53rd Street serving "global cuisine with an Asian twist," features jazz and blues performers on the weekends. Jerry Kleiner, the restaurateur behind Opera and Marche, opened the colorful Park 52 on 52nd Street six months ago, complete with enormous orange lampshades and \$18 seared tilapia.

"We want to give the community a touch of downtown," said Park 52 general manager John Nowowiejski. "People have been craving this."

ALEXIA ELEJALDE-RUIZ

COLLEGE TOWN

The University of Chicago plays an integral role in shaping the neighborhood.

4,901

Number of undergrad students, almost all of whom live in the Hyde Park area

9,820

Number of graduate students, about half of whom live in the Hyde Park area

1,800

Number of full-time faculty members, about 60 percent of whom live in the Hyde Park area

253

Acres of university-owned property in the Hyde Park area

SOURCE: BOB ROSENBERG, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Gay school proposal shelved

Supporters pull the plug on Tuesday vote amid sharp criticism and fear of a 'watered down' version

Chicago Tribune

The team pushing for Chicago's first public high school aimed at gay and lesbian students pulled the plug Tuesday, faced with criticism from Mayor Daley and some ministers and an internal split about whether a revamped version "watered down" the vision.

The Chicago Board of Education was set to vote on the proposal Wednesday, but the

educators behind the plan asked to be taken off the agenda late Tuesday.

The school initially was going to be called the School for Social Justice Pride Campus, partly focusing on gay issues. But last week, organizers changed the name to the Solidarity Campus and broadened its focus to include all disenfranchised groups of students.

As late as Tuesday morning, some advocates

were pushing the idea that the change was a good compromise. A few hours later, however, the group told Chicago Public Schools officials it would try to retool its ideas and ask for approval in a year.

"There are some members of the design team who felt it was watered down too much and there was not enough consensus ... to move forward as it stood," district spokesman

Michael Vaughn said.

The organizers, members of the School for Social Justice in Little Village, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Some gay rights activists said they were concerned the proposed high school would segregate gay youths while others saw such a campus as a safe haven from possible harassment and violence.

Getting smart

CTA wants your credit card to be able to pay your fare

Chicago Tribune

In a society addicted to buying on credit, the CTA is hoping to cash in big time.

A "smart" version of those credit cards and bank debit cards stuffed in your wallet will be accepted for payment of CTA bus and train fares in about a year under a plan to simplify commuting, transit officials told the Tribune on Tuesday.

The card, which will contain a computer chip that allows the user to pay for rides on the CTA and other participating transit systems, is otherwise a standard credit or a debit card that can be used at all other businesses where it is currently accepted.

It's intended in part to eliminate the hassles of learning how to use the current CTA fare cards.

"You tap the card against the card reader and get on the CTA. It removes the barrier of having to get our type of fare [card]," CTA President Ron Huberman said.

For the CTA rider, the smart cards are billed as being all about the convenience. Consumers ultimately will be able to carry one card to cover just about any expense, from lattes to laundry bills, airfares to Frankfurt and subway rides to Clark and Division Streets, proponents of the cards say.

Visa, MasterCard and all other credit card



CALLING ALL BIDDERS

The CTA plans to start soliciting bids from companies as early next year for "smart" credit cards that double as fare cards, like this Barclaycard-backed Visa card seen here in use in London. A pilot project will then follow on CTA bus routes and selected rail stations.

and banking companies will be invited to bid for contracts, CTA officials said.

The change, which is expected to take place over a period of years, marks a step toward what some financial experts envision as a mostly cashless society. It also will free up the CTA to focus exclusively on providing transportation, while generating new income through long-term contracts with the corporations that issue and manage the cards.

The potential benefits to the consumer are limited only by the imagination of the marketing departments at the credit card firms and banks competing for a chunk of

the 1.7 million daily fare transactions on the CTA, experts say. For example: Ride the bus, earn airline miles.

"A lot of merchants validate parking. They could also validate transit use by providing credits for CTA rides as a reward for shopping at their business," said George Kocur, a senior lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

People who make low incomes, individuals with bad credit or those who don't like credit or bank cards could continue to use traditional CTA transit cards, until they are eventually phased

out, or pay cash fares on buses, CTA officials said. Cash represents fewer than 5 percent of CTA fare transactions.

The new smart card technology will open new lines of revenue to the cash-strapped CTA and allow it to eventually get out of the costly business of supplying fare cards, purchasing and maintaining transit card vending machines and doing the bookkeeping, officials said.

"Moving away from producing our own fare media and maintaining transit card vending machines across the system will save the CTA at least \$10 million a year over time," Huberman said.

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Crime down 3.5% in Chicago

The Illinois State Police on Tuesday announced the state's crime rate fell 3.6 percent in 2007, and that crime in the city of Chicago that year dropped 3.5 percent.

Crimes tracked in the survey are murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated battery and aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. Murder rates dropped statewide 4.8 percent in 2007.

Crime statistics in general can swing up or down on an annual basis. For example, in 2006, the state's crime rates had increased

from 2005. And this year, while statewide numbers are not yet available, Chicago has seen a significant surge in its murder rate: the city had 392 homicides through September, 50 more than in the first nine months in 2007.

One notable drop continues to be in the motor vehicle theft category, which decreased by 10 percent. This is the eighth year motor vehicle theft rates have dropped, according to the report.

State Police Lt. Luis Gutierrez said since tracking tools like global positioning devices

became standard in many new cars, theft rates have fallen.

"GPS is a deterrent," Gutierrez said, because it allows law enforcement to find a stolen car quickly. Gutierrez said he believes other forms of technology—such as street cameras—have played a factor in the drop.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the state reported 456,085 indexed crimes in 2007, compared to 470,730 in 2006. Counties bordering Cook County saw one of the larger drops in the report, with crime there down 4.7 percent.



Ayers appearance postponed

A speaking engagement at Northwestern University by William Ayers,

Ayers

the 1960s radical whose connections to President-elect Obama became a campaign issue, has been postponed, university spokesman Alan Cabbage said Tuesday. Ayers had been in negotiations to speak at the university Thursday night, Cabbage said. Ayers, the former Weather Underground radical, was invited to Northwestern by the Muslim Cultural Students Association. A new date for the speaking engagement at the Evanston campus has not been set, Cabbage said.



Battle for Emanuel's seat begins

Democratic State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz said Tuesday she has submitted the

Feigenholtz

federal paperwork to prepare her entry into the anticipated contest to replace U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel in Chicago's 5th Congressional District. Emanuel is stepping down from representing the Northwest Side district to become chief of staff to President-elect Obama. He has not given a time frame for resigning the seat, which will require a special election to fill.

East Garfield Park woman accused of lying to police

An East Garfield Park woman falsely claimed Monday that a drug dealer had stolen her car containing an infant she was baby-sitting, authorities said. Armed with the name of the alleged car thief from Sherry Triplett, 22, Chicago police scrambled to find him and the missing child, only to discover it was her boyfriend, who lived with Triplett and their two children, prosecutors said. Prosecutors said Triplett later admitted she made up the story.

Woman killed by car on South Side

A South Side woman was killed after being run down by a driver near her home Monday, police said Tuesday. A second woman also was seriously hurt. Shonte Sardin, 35, had been in an altercation with the driver before the vehicle struck her and the other woman in the 4100 block of South Wabash Avenue, authorities said. The other woman, whose relationship to Sardin was not known, was in serious condition at Stroger Hospital.

CTA crash injures 20

A motorist was cited with negligent driving Tuesday after police said she caused a chain-reaction crash that sent her vehicle into the back of a CTA bus on Roosevelt Road near Blue Island Avenue, injuring up to 20 people. Gail Cantave's vehicle rear-ended a No. 12-Roosevelt bus, carrying about 30 passengers, officials said.

CANDICE C. CUSIC/TRIBUNE



Plasma donations up in tough economy

Inside Talecris Plasma Resources in Waukegan, business is good. Past the overflowing waiting room, 30 people recently reclined on comfortable red leather chairs, each one making \$20 to \$45 as they watched TV, listened to music or chatted with neighbors.

The source of the cash is blood plasma, precious to pharmaceutical companies as the raw material needed to make a wide variety of medicines. Thin tubes carried blood from each person's arm to a piece of whirring machinery that gradually filled a container with the valuable yellow fluid.

College students and the down-and-out have long donated plasma for easy

money, but in a trying economic climate the number of people extracting gas or groceries from their veins is booming.

Ismael Hernandez, 33, a forklift driver from Waukegan, said he started donating two months ago to supplement his job income.

"Instead of sitting at home watching TV, I can spend a couple hours and make some extra gas money," Hernandez said. "Everything is hard, it's all getting more expensive: gas of course, just the cost of living."

An industry group said total donations may hit 16 million this year, up from 10 million donations just three years earlier.

IF YOU GO

What is blood plasma?

Plasma is the liquid portion of blood, in which red and white blood cells float.

How does donating plasma differ from donating blood?

Because the body regenerates plasma faster than blood cells, a person can donate plasma as often as twice a week. Whole blood can be donated

only once every eight weeks.

Can I donate plasma?

The requirements for plasma donation are similar to those for giving blood: Donors must be at least 18, weigh more than 110 pounds and pass a medical examination that tests for such diseases as HIV and hepatitis.

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First black attorney general?

6 WASHINGTON Washington attorney Eric Holder is President-elect Obama's top choice to be the next attorney general, and aides have gone so far as to ask senators whether he would be confirmed, an Obama official and people close to the matter said Tuesday.

Holder, a former U.S. attorney who served as the No. 2 official in the Justice Department under President Bill Clinton, would be the nation's first black attorney general.

An Obama official and two Democrats in touch with the transition team con-



firmed that Holder is Obama's top choice but the Obama official said the decision has not been finalized.

Holder did not return messages seeking comment Tuesday. Asked Monday by The Associated Press whether he expected to be nominated, he responded in an e-mail: "Who knows?"

In the past week, Obama aides have

asked Senate Republicans whether they would support Holder. In particular, the aides questioned whether Holder's confirmation would be delayed because of his involvement in the 2001 pardon of fugitive Marc Rich by Clinton at the end of his presidency.

One person involved in the talks said the Obama team has received some assurances that, while the Rich pardon would certainly come up during hearings, the nomination likely wouldn't be held up.

All spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private conversations.



APPHOTO

Special space walk

Two astronauts stepped outside the International Space Station on Tuesday for an unprecedented clean and lube job on a gummed-up joint.

1 Sex trade crackdown?

The British government wants to make it illegal to pay for sex and is considering a plan to "name and shame" men who visit prostitutes—a move critics say would turn back the clock to Victorian times.

2 School days

Malia and Sasha Obama are in Washington with their mother checking out new schools. Michelle Obama brought the girls to visit the future first family's top choices, her spokeswoman Katie McCormick Lelyveld said Tuesday. She would not name the schools.

3 Oldest polar bear dies

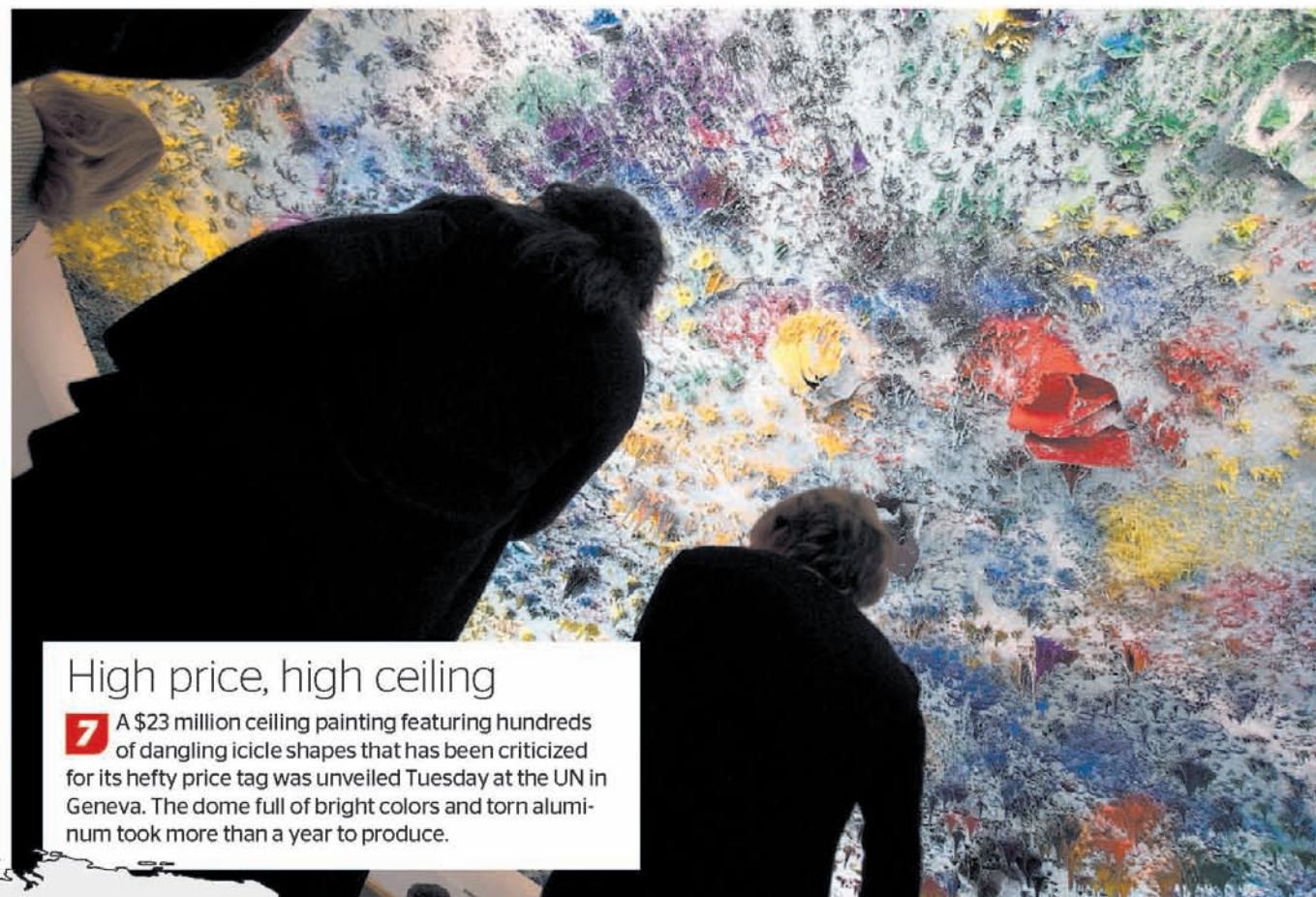
The world's oldest polar bear has died at a zoo in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The bear, named Debby, was euthanized on Monday at 42 after suffering from several strokes and organ failure.

4 Fragile cease-fire

Israeli tanks pushed into the southern Gaza Strip on Tuesday, drawing mortar fire from Palestinian militants and intensifying violence that has chipped away at a tenuous cease-fire.

5 Iraq prime minister on TV

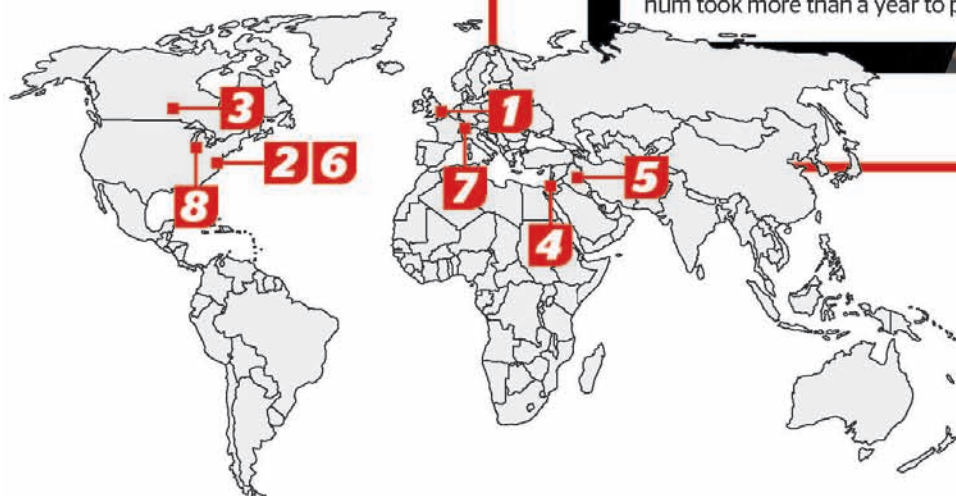
Iraq's prime minister went on national TV on Tuesday in Baghdad to defend a security pact with the U.S. that keeps American forces in Iraq through 2011 and assure neighbors that Iraqi territory would not be used to attack them.



High price, high ceiling

7 A \$23 million ceiling painting featuring hundreds of dangling icicle shapes that has been criticized for its hefty price tag was unveiled Tuesday at the UN in Geneva. The dome full of bright colors and torn aluminum took more than a year to produce.

AP



8 Indiana snow

Lake-effect snow and icy roads caused numerous crashes Tuesday in northwestern Indiana. The heaviest snowfall hit LaPorte and Porter counties along the southern edge of Lake Michigan. **TOM VAN DYKE/ TRIBUNE**

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sports



AS THE ECONOMY—AND ESPECIALLY THE AUTO INDUSTRY—FOUNDERS, IS NASCAR ABOUT TO...

CRASH & BURN?

The Washington Post

It's no secret America's fastest-growing sport is getting slammed by the economic slowdown. NASCAR teams are losing sponsors, laying off workers and, in some cases, merging with former rivals to stay afloat.

But it's not a given the competition will suffer as a result.

A return to frugality might be the best thing for NASCAR, which has been transformed in the last decade by billion-dollar TV contracts and multimillion-dollar sponsorship deals.

Consider the late Alan Kulwicki, who won NASCAR's 1992 championship on such a lean budget—19 employees and less than \$2 million—that he scratched the first two letters from his Ford so it read "UNDERBIRD."

By comparison, Jimmie Johnson is cheered by the roughly 500 employees at Hendrick Motorsports, which fields four NASCAR

teams—each with an annual budget of \$20 million to \$24 million.

That surge in the cost of sponsoring a front-running team has enabled teams to hire fleets of engineers, buy sophisticated equipment and build state-of-the-art shops.

"The money hasn't made the sport any better," says former NASCAR driver Jimmy Spencer, now a commentator with Speed TV. "As an old racer used to warn me about spending money, 'Just remember: Pigs get fat, but hogs get slaughtered.'"

Larry McReynolds, Davey Allison's crew chief in '92, remembers when the sport entered the big-time, at least in his eyes. It was the day his team's owner, Robert Yates, bought his first million-dollar piece of equipment, a CNC machine, in the early 1990s.

The CNC machine, essentially an enormous robot, could grind cylinder heads in a

fraction of the time a crew member could, its blades slicing precisely as directed by a computer program, mass-producing one after another, and each of them identical.

Today, top NASCAR teams such as Hendrick Motorsports and Joe Gibbs Racing have at least a half-dozen CNC machines.

The late Dale Earnhardt won most of his seven titles with less sophisticated equipment.

"We had four scales, a ball of string and a tape measure, and that was all you needed," said Kirk Sheldermine, crew chief for four of those seven titles, recalling the process of building and balancing Earnhardt's No. 3 Chevys. "And I had to re-use the string!"

And while NASCAR mandated in 2006 that all cars' bodies be identical, the upshot has cost teams even more money. With so little variation among the cars, well-funded

teams are pouring millions into research and development to find the slightest edge.

And each time one hires an engineer with an MIT degree or Formula One experience, others scramble to do the same.

But not all the excess is in payrolls. It can be found in lavish motor homes and Learjets.

"Greed has become a big problem in NASCAR," Spencer said. "But all of us need to start realizing we're spending too much."

NASCAR President Brian France took a step in that direction by banning testing in 2009, which could save teams as much as \$1 million each. But he ruled out two other cost-saving measures: trimming the 36-race season and shortening the lengths of races.

Says McReynolds: "The bottom line is, it doesn't matter what rule you make: The strong are still gonna be strong, and the weak are still gonna be weak."



Some people close to NASCAR estimate as many as 1,000 employees could lose their jobs this week as teams try to cut costs.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

The Whiz Quiz

Think you know your stuff? Test your sports smarts against RedEye's prognosticating pooch, Whizzer. Which of these automakers is not involved in NASCAR? Text "**quiz**" and the number of your answer to **47383**. I'll text ya back to tell you if you got the answer right or wrong.

1. Ford 2. Honda 3. Dodge
4. Chevrolet 5. Toyota

Racing teams begin mass layoffs

CHARLOTTE Above all the pomp of Sunday's season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway hung an air of uncertainty and, in some cases, panic. Team members quietly passed around resumes. Others worried that the end of the race also would signify the end of a steady paycheck.

Mass layoffs are expected throughout NASCAR this week. Some guess as many as 1,000 will lose their jobs.

On Tuesday, Hall of Fame Racing said it will cut its staff even if it secures sponsorship to run a full 2009 season.

Layoffs began a mere two months into the season when BAM Racing stopped showing up at races. Then Chip Ganassi let 71 people go in July when he cut down to two cars.

The numbers have steadily grown since, reaching all the way to the elite teams of NASCAR. Hendrick Motorsports, Roush Fenway Racing and Joe Gibbs Racing have all gone through layoffs in the past month.

It all paled to last Wednesday, when Dale Earnhardt Inc. gave pink slips to 116 employees so it could ease the way for a merger with Ganassi.

"It's gut-wrenching to make those decisions," DEI president Max Siegel said.

Several other teams will probably share that experience this week.

Sponsorship woes have put famed Petty Enterprises and the Wood Brothers on shaky ground, while the bottom might well be about to drop at Bill Davis Racing. "We've

all overspent," seven-time series champion Richard Petty said. "We all had it so good we just kept going forward without saying, 'What if it goes bad?'"

It's likely to get much worse. Attendance is down, sponsorships are harder to come by and the Big 3 automakers are in financial trouble.

France said a little more than a week ago that NASCAR "won't live or die" by a manufacturer pullback or pullout. But many teams will, and the effect will be devastating to those who rely on racing to pay the bills.

"This is the way they pay their mortgages," driver Jeff Burton said. "And this is the way they pay their car loans and send their children to school and pay their bills."

Refs can ruin fantasy too

Fantasy football can be a harsh mistress. You could spend more time studying Mike Shanahan's running-back rotation than for a college final and prepare more for your draft than your wedding, but sometimes the difference between a win and a loss is human error or just plain dumb luck.

I have to continually remind my patients that football isn't an exact science, and the bizarre end to Sunday's Steelers-Chargers game is Exhibit A. Pittsburgh safety Troy Polamalu clearly scored a TD off a botched San Diego lateral at the end of the game, but the refs decided to take the points off the board. If you owned the Steelers D, you had six points erased that may have cost you a win. It's an injustice that is part of the game. It's why I stick by the old adage, "You win some, you lose some, and throw your remote through your TV."

A stiff glass of Ginn

Ted Ginn Jr. is becoming a poor man's Devin Hester (who is himself a poor man's Devin Hester these days). His 40-yard TD run Sunday showed the speedy Dolphins receiver and returner is a nice weapon. But like Hester, Ginn Jr. is inconsistent and could put up one fantasy point as easily as 14. He's a risky start.

K.C. masterpiece

After tossing his fourth straight solid game, Tyler Thigpen is staking his place as the best Thigpen in sports since ex-White Sox pitcher Bobby Thigpen. Tyler may not be on a Drew Brees/Kurt Warner level yet, but if you're in a deep league, you might consider using him against a fading Bills team in Week 12.

Favorable Week 12 matchups

» Ben Roethlisberger and the tattered Steelers O get the declawed Bengals defense in Week 12. Willie Parker is a good start, and Big Ben isn't a bad one.

» LaDainian Tomlinson may have struggled against the stout Steelers run defense, but look for The Visored One to get back on track against the Colts.

D.R. SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



dr. fantasy

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West is best?

See Jen Patterson on Comcast SportsNet's "Monsters in the Morning," debuting in January. Until then, catch her on "The Mike North Webio Show" on wildfirerestaurant.com.

**TOPIC****TRACY SWARTZ**
tswartz@tribune.com**JIMMY GREENFIELD**
jgreenfield@tribune.com**BRIAN MOORE**
brmoore@tribune.com**JEN PATTERSON**
redeyesports@tribune.com**DR. FANTASY**
redeyesports@tribune.com

1 The Bulls game vs. the Lakers was late Tuesday night. Imagine how it ended.

With the Lakers on top.

The Laker Girls called in sick and came to my house for some free throws.

Derrick Rose gets pantsed by Kobe, then things get *really* weird.

Kobe stubs his toe and Bulls win by 10. You said to imagine!

I had a weird vision Nocioni turned into Teen Wolf and scored 60 in a Bulls win.

2 What would you like the Bulls to bring you back from their West Coast road trip?

Nothing. Whatever they have, Jimmy's already got.

Peace, love and underwear.

Vinny, Jimmy would like his lovely hair back, please.

Five wins and a nice bottle of red from wine country.

The heat, and I don't mean the Miami variety.

3 Trail Blazers center Greg Oden gets injured more than ...

... Brooke Burke on "Dancing with the Stars." But who's a bigger bust?

... Trail Blazers rookie Greg Oden stays healthy. Think about it.

... a Cubs pitcher in batting practice.

... the cast of "Jackass." Is that possible?

... any other 20-year-old. But I'm convinced he's secretly older than Morgan Freeman.

4 The Blackhawks go to Dallas on Thursday. Where might they find Mark Cuban?

Not inside a market.

Hiding behind Khabibulin's goalie mask.

Swimming in a pool of money. Hey, how'd that get there?

Getting fitted for his ankle bracelet.

In the basement shredding documents and asking Martha Stewart about prison.

5 How will BCS games be different on ESPN instead of Fox?

The police that show up after an FSU game will be real officers, not "COPS."

The sideline reporters will be cable-ready.

The Chris Berman annoying alert will be elevated to ear-splitting from mildly irritating.

Not as many people will be watching.

Lee Corso's head might actually explode from the excitement.

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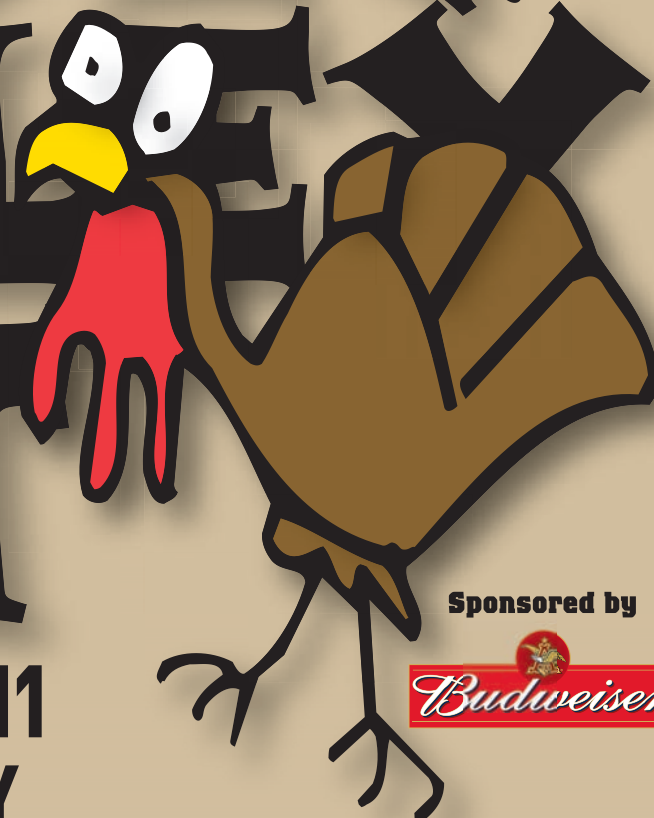
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HOMETOWN HITS



Pima County's supervisors voted 5-0 on Tuesday to allow the White Sox to end their Spring Training contract with the city so they can move immediately to the Phoenix suburb of Glendale. The White Sox will pay the city \$5 million to leave.



NEXT GAME
at Texas A&M
Corpus Christi
7 p.m. Wednesday



Next game
vs. Northern
Iowa
7 p.m. Wednesday,
Lakeshore Public Television



NO. 11 PURDUE
78, LOYOLA OF
CHICAGO 46
E'Twaun Moore scored 14 points, and No. 11 Purdue defeated Loyola of Chicago on Tuesday night to advance to the NIT Season Tip-Off semifinals. Justin Cerasoli had 14 points for the Ramblers (1-2).



WISCONSIN
88, S. ILLINOIS-
EDWARDS-
VILLE 58

Reserve Jon Leuer scored 19 points to lead No. 25 Wisconsin to an 88-58 victory over Southern Illinois-Edwardsville on Tuesday night. Barry Wellington led Edwardsville (1-3) with 15 points.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

- » N. Illinois 86, Indiana St. 79 (basketball)
- » N. Illinois 42, Kent St. 14 (football)
- » The Bulls game at L.A. did not end before press time.
- » The Blackhawks game at Phoenix did not end before press time.



Dempster
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Cubs re-sign Dempster

Ryan Dempster made the successful switch from closer to starter this season, winning 17 games and helping the Cubs compile the best record in the National League.

Once the postseason rolled around, though, Dempster's Spring Training prediction that the Cubs would win the World Series fell way short when the Cubs were swept in the first round for the second consecutive year.

Dempster had a chance to leave as a free agent, but his desire to get the Cubs to the World Series, help them win it all for the first time since 1908 and play in a city where he and his family are so comfortable were all factors in his decision to return Tuesday.

And a \$52 million, four-year contract helped convince him too.

"I never thought sitting there negotiating over 50-something million dollars would be such a hard thing to do," Dempster said. "Ultimately what it comes to, you have to think: What are our chances to win a world championship? I think given as close as we've gotten the last few, I just thought this is where I want to be."

Dempster said he's not worried that he might have gotten a better deal elsewhere if he'd spent more time on the market. He said there were no other firm offers immediately.

"Was there more money on the open market? I'm sure there probably was. Who knows?" Dempster said.

"That's a question that I'll never be able to answer, but truthfully I don't really even care to know because I'm happy with what I have. It's more money than I could ever dream of getting when I was a kid growing up playing baseball."



Peavy

WHAT'S NEXT?

Cubs GM Jim Hendry is still trying to find a way to fit Padres ace Jake Peavy into the picture. The Cubs are the sole remaining bidders for Peavy.

"They have a couple of players to pick from that we are interested in, but anything with them is going to potentially involve a third or a fourth team," Padres GM Kevin Towers told the San Diego Union-Tribune. "We're focusing only on [the Cubs]."

If the Cubs can't get Peavy, they will turn to 45-year-old Randy Johnson, who would be a one-year fix. That leaves no place for Jason Marquis, who would have to go to the bullpen. The Cubs also are interested in free-agent shortstop Rafael Furcal, who is seeking \$10 million per year for three or four years after hitting .357 in 36 games for the Dodgers in 2008.

watch dog

WHIZZER
redeyesports
@tribune.com

I take a certain satisfaction in West Coast pro games.

Take the Bulls game at Portland, for instance. I can watch a full slate of crappy TV before the game tips off, but I don't have to feel guilty about falling asleep before the game's over. No matter that regular season NBA games always put me to sleep. Here now, my TV picks.

NBA

Bulls at Portland
9:30 p.m. WGN
Send in the clowns: Game 2 of the circus trip.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ball State at Central Michigan
6 p.m. ESPN2
The Cardinals are No. 14. The Chippewas are ... toast.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

UFC Unleashed
8 p.m. Spike TV
Warning: Do not try what you see on TV at home.

HIT AND RUN

BOXING

Holyfield pursues record

Evander Holyfield is returning to the ring at age 46, setting his sights on becoming undisputed heavyweight champ again. He will fight 7-foot WBA champ Nikolai Valuev on Dec. 20. A victory will make him the oldest man to claim a world heavyweight title and the first to win it five times.



BASEBALL

Pedroia is AL MVP

Boston's Dustin Pedroia (left) won the AL MVP award Tuesday, becoming the first second baseman to earn the honor in nearly a half-century. He easily beat out Minnesota slugger Justin Morneau and added to his ever-expanding trophy case.

COPS AND JOCKS

Athletes can't seem to stay out of trouble, and we can't seem to look away

Player charged with rape

Authorities say a Mississippi State tennis player has been arrested and charged with raping a 20-year-old woman during a party at his apartment. Police say Christopher Richard Doerr, who is from London, was released from jail Tuesday after posting a \$50,500 bond. The 20-year-old junior also faces a charge of furnishing beer to a minor.

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Prep rally

19 ways to get ready for the holidays

By the Metromix staff

Tick, tock. Don't go into shock. The holiday countdown is here.

While we can't personally do away with the family drama, gift anxiety or office party politics, we can offer you a holiday to-do list that'll gently guide you into '09 with minimal bruising.

Godspeed and good luck.



12 Bars of Christmas Pub Crawl: Dec. 13



The Dandy Warhols play Metro on New Year's Eve

Thanksgiving

□ Ready your stomach for a turkey-day binge. Pick up a big **turkey-off-the-bone sandwich** (\$8.75)—complete with cranberry sauce—from new River North spot **Steve's Deli** (354 W. Hubbard St.).

□ Head to **Todd's Wine** (1616 N. Damen Ave.) and pick up a bottle of **Pedroncelli's Mother Clone 2006 Zinfandel** (\$16), which owner Todd Brill says will pair beautifully with your turkey.

□ Snag tickets to Metromix's **Black Wednesday Pilgrimage**, a Thanksgiving Eve bar crawl that starts and ends at Lotties Pub (1925 W. Cortland St.). \$20. Tickets online: pilgrimage.eventbrite.com

□ Prepare for holiday party season and **replace your sad winter coat** with a new one from **Connect** (1330 N. Milwaukee Ave.), a recently opened Wicker Park shop stocking eco-friendly outerwear label **Nau**.

□ Hit the **Blackest Black Wednesday bash** at new Old Town hang **Sully's House** (1501 N. Dayton St.), which offers \$1 off dark beers and spirits with "black" in the title, plus screenings of "black" movies—such as "Men in Black"—on mute. Bar opens 11 a.m. Nov. 26. No cover.

□ Order your **Thanksgiving bird** (\$2.39 per pound) and check out just-opened **Bucktown** butcher shop and deli **Sterling Goss** (1845 N. Oakley Ave. 773-342-7100). Orders must be placed by Sunday for Nov. 26 pickup.

Christmas

□ Guarantee your status as the party host with the most: Learn to **make eggnog** from Room 21 chef **Daniel Tucker**. 6 p.m. Dec. 4 and 11. \$10; free if you stick around and buy dinner. (2110 S. Wabash Ave.)

□ See the warm but not sentimental family flick "**Nothing Like the Holidays**," which was set and shot in **Humboldt Park** and stars Chicago native **Freddy Rodriguez**. It opens Dec. 12.

□ Kill two birds with one stone: **Buy a pie** and check "goodwill toward men" off your list at **The Blue Sky Bakery** (4749 N. Albany Ave. 773-478-2233), which employs homeless and at-risk youth. The shop is taking orders through Dec. 22 for its pies and sweets-filled gift baskets. Available for pickup or Christmas Eve delivery.

□ Have the girliest-sounding drink at the manliest-sounding bar: **The Sugar Plum Martini** (\$12) at **Butch McGuire's**

(20 W. Division St.), which is always decked out for the holidays.

□ Buy your tickets for the all-day, always raucous **13th Annual 12 Bars of Christmas Pub Crawl** (a.k.a. TBOX) Dec. 13 in Wrigleyville. \$30. Tickets online: shopfesta.com/tbox

□ Grant yourself a holiday shopping reprieve by ducking into the **Seasons Lounge** inside the **Four Seasons** (120 E. Delaware Pl.), where you'll find the staff actually **roasting chestnuts** in a bronze pan in the fireplace and serving them for free. Match them with an indulgent holiday cocktail like the white chocolate and peppermint **Jack Frost Martini** (\$13).

□ Let **The Chopping Block** (4747 N. Lincoln Ave.) ease you through this year's cookie-baking marathon during **Bake 'n' Take cooking classes**. Learn to prepare and bake rum balls, windowpane cookies, *Creme de Menthe* bars, ginger cookies and cranberry orange biscotti, and take home a dozen of each. 10 a.m. Dec. 19 and 20. \$175. R.S.V.P.: thechoppingblock.net

New Year's Eve

□ Lock in the \$100 rate when you buy your tickets before Thanksgiving for **Le Passage's New Year's Eve bash**. New in '09 hot spots **Angels & Kings** and **Vertigo** are still planning their sure-to-be-big parties, but there's a reason why the seasoned **Le Passage** (937 N. Rush St.) sells out every year by mid-December: They've got the holiday down to a science. Includes a premium open bar (9 p.m.-1 a.m.), buffet, champagne toast and favors. Tickets online: lepassage.com

□ Buy tickets to **Holy F***** at **Subterranean** (2011 W. North Ave.). If this Canadian electronic outfit doesn't get you moving, check your pulse. 10 p.m. Dec. 31. \$30. Tickets online: ticketweb.com

□ Brush up on seasonally appropriate wines—and stock up on tipples for the New Year—at **Just Grapes** (560 W.

Washington Blvd., Suite 100) **annual holiday extravaganza** (5:30 p.m. Dec. 3), featuring tastings of more than 40 wines with food pairings from West Loop neighborhood spots. Reservations recommended. \$50-\$60.

□ Ladies only: Browse the super-affordable **sparkly accessories** at **Spoil Me** in Wicker Park for the perfect glittery bag or big-statement earrings to ring in 2009.

□ Expand your mind, man, when psychedelic popsters **The Dandy Warhols** take the stage at **Metro** (3730 N. Clark St.) Tickets (\$55-\$65) go on sale noon Nov. 29: metrochicago.com

□ Cure your inevitable New Year's Eve hangover at **Moonshine** (1824 W. Division St.), which offers a special Jan. 1 brunch menu with **carb-heavy hangover helpers** like cinnamon French toast (\$7.50) and homemade corned beef and hash (\$8.50).





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March 15.

wed 19 Rock, roll, repeat

Landmark, 1633 N. Halsted St. 312-587-1600.

Axl Rose taught you how to be cautious ("Welcome to the Jungle") and tender ("Sweet Child o' Mine"). Repay the favor at Landmark's **Rock 'n' Roll Wine Tasting** in honor of Guns N' Roses' sixth album, "Chinese Democracy," to be released Sunday. How it works: Four wines get audio pairings to classic GNR songs. For example, listen to the ballad "Patience" while sipping a sauternes, a sweet dessert wine. Includes a buffet of small bites; bandanas are optional. 7 p.m. No cover.

Shop to it

Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph St. 312-744-6630.

Whether you like it or not, holiday season is here. Get into the spirit of giving at **Glitter: A Holiday Shopping Event**, which transforms the second floor of the Cultural Center into a bazaar stocked with original gifts and fashions from local designers, and boutiques such as Dollybird Design, Alyse Ziede, Haji Couture Accessories and Heidi Hess. Noon. Free.

Go fish

Ai Japanese Restaurant, 358 W. Ontario St. 312-335-9888.

Who says sushi isn't a recession-friendly food? Join Metromix and other sushi fans at River North hang Ai for \$5 maki and martinis at **Discover Maki with Metromix**. Flash your Discover card for additional discounts on signature maki. 5 p.m. No cover; reservations recommended.

thu 20 'Human' contact

Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway. 773-472-3492.

Stand-up comedian and actor **Aziz Ansari** makes a pit stop in Chicago as part of his "Glow in the Dark" tour. The wacky creator and star of MTV's sketch comedy show "Human Giant" also is slated for a yet-to-be-named NBC spinoff of "The Office," co-starring Amy Poehler, that's scheduled for 2009. 10:30 p.m. \$20.

fri 21 Backyard cuisine

Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph St.

Localvores fretting the onset of winter need not squirrel away their nuts just yet. There'll be plenty of fresh eats at this weekend's FamilyFarmed Expo (see metromix.com for details), starting with kickoff party **Localicious**. Dine on appetizers and desserts made with regional ingredients from Farmerie 58, Uncommon Ground and others. Also on tap: cocktails, beer and live music from The Giving Tree Band. 7 p.m. \$50-\$60. Tickets: familyfarmed.org

HOW TO REACH US | FOR ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION 24/7, GO TO **METROMIX.COM**.

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For questions, comments and story ideas, contact Matt McGuire, editor, at mmcguire@tribune.com

To submit event information for Metromix or metromix.com, go to metromix.com/listings.





Turkey talk
South Loop tapas spot Mercat a la Planxa puts a Spanish twist on Thanksgiving, mixing the regular menu with specials such as turkey with Pedro Ximenez jus. **FILE FOR METROMIX**

Thanksgiving dinners

AJASTEAK
11:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.: Six-course prix-fixe meal with a wine pairing option. Selections include spiced heirloom squash soup; roasted lamb loin with stewed flageolets and fresh herbs; roasted turkey with challah stuffing, cranberry-walnut jam and mushroom gravy; and pumpkin pie with bourbon ice cream and bourbon barrel-aged maple syrup. The regular menu is also available. \$85; \$125 with wine pairing. Reservations recommended; 660 N. State St. Dana Hotel and Spa. 312-202-6000.

BIN 36
3 p.m.: Three-course dinner featuring traditional entrees, family-style sides and seasonal desserts. Selections include endive salad with pears, blue cheese and hazelnut vinaigrette;

roisserie turkey; slow-roasted prime rib with hollandaise sauce; apple creme brulee with maple anglaise and sauteed apples. \$42; \$19 for kids 12 and under. Reservations recommended. 339 N. Dearborn St. 312-755-9463.

COCO PAZZO CAFE
11:30 a.m.: Four-course prix-fixe menu featuring roasted pumpkin soup, butternut squash risotto, stuffed turkey breast, pecan crostata and more. The regular menu is also available. \$40. Reservations recommended; 636 N. St. Clair St. 312-664-2777.

DAVID BURKE'S PRIMEHOUSE
11 a.m. Thu.: Prix-fixe dinner with family-style sides and carved meats served tableside. A limited a la carte menu is also offered. Each guest gets leftovers

to take home. \$38; \$14 for kids. Reservations recommended; 616 N. Rush St. 312-660-6000.

JAKE MELNICK'S CORNER TAP
11 a.m.: Pub- and beer-inspired buffet-style Thanksgiving meal includes selections such as roasted turkey with Oktoberfest gravy, Wild Turkey-glazed ham, Woodchuck cider-glazed carrots, Leinenkugel's Nut Brown sweet potato casserole, baked mac and cheese, mini-creme brulee and chocolate-cream cheese-stout brownies. Limited selection of regular menu items also available (prices vary). \$19.95; \$15.95 for kids 12 and under; 41 E. Superior St. 312-266-0400.

MERCAT A LA PLANXA
5 p.m.: Specials augment the regular menu. Selections include spiced pumpkin soup with

molasses creme fraiche and smoked almonds, and cinnamon-smoked turkey breast and leg confit with Catalan-spiced cranberry-orange compote, Verdial olive and fingerling potato mash with Pedro Ximenez sherry jus. Prices vary. Reservations recommended. 638 S. Michigan Ave. 312-765-0524.

NOMI
11:30 a.m.: Buffet features brunch dishes before 2 p.m., including French toast, pancakes and bacon with Brussels sprouts gratinee. Other dishes added in the evening. Seafood, salad and charcuterie are served throughout the day. \$125; \$35 for kids 5-12. Reservations required; 800 N. Michigan Ave. Park Hyatt Hotel, 7th floor. 312-335-1234.

ROPA RESTAURANT & WINE BAR
1 p.m.: Three-course meal in addition to

Gobble gobble
Hungry yet? Find more Thanksgiving Day meals in our Holiday Guide at metromix.com

regular fare. Selections include butternut squash soup, herb-roasted free-range turkey, blue cheese-crusted sirloin, Cajun-style tilapia and apple pie. \$19. Reservations recommended; 1146 W. Pratt Blvd. 773-508-0002.

SHOR
Noon: Multicourse meal includes salad and dessert bars, plus choice of entree. Selections include roasted turkey with cranberry relish, glazed ham with corn pudding and seared pork loin with braised cabbage and applesauce. Kids can make crafts to take home. \$29.50; \$15 for kids. Reservations recommended; 2233 S. King Drive Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. 312-528-4140.

SUSHISAMBA RIO
11:30 a.m.: Specials available in addition to the regular menu, including marinated turkey with cornbread-linguica stuffing (\$28) and the Thanksgiving cocktail (spiced rum, Canton ginger liqueur, pear juice and caramel sauce, \$11). Prices vary. Reservations recommended; 504 N. Wells St. 312-595-2300.

TALLULAH
1 p.m.: Four-course prix-fixe dinner. Selections include roasted turkey with jalapeno-cheddar Dauphinoise, buttered baby turnips and boar bacon gravy, and seared duck breast with cranberry rilletes tartine, Miners lettuce and orange vinaigrette. \$45. Reservations required; 4539 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-942-7585.

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Buy, buy birdie

This Thanksgiving, leave the cooking to the pros

By Terri Mooney

Prefer your Thanksgiving sans shopping, stuffing, stirring and sautéing? These carryout options are guaranteed to make the annual eating extravaganza less stressful. We've even broken them down by price to make the holiday less stressful on your wallet.



Turkey to-go

Sheffield's Thanksgiving carryout meal includes turkey, sides and optional beer pairings. Get details on more carryout options, including dinners from markets such as Fox & Obel, Goddess and Grocer and Whole Foods, in our holiday guide at metromix.com. **BRIAN J. MOROWCZYNSKI FOR METROMIX**

High-end

Mercat a la Planxa

638 S. Michigan Ave. 312-765-0524
This South Loop eatery offers Spanish spins on American staples, so it's no surprise that Thanksgiving options have flair. The carryout menu features Catalan-seasoned turkey and trimmings such as glazed fingerling sweet potatoes and sherry-infused gravy.
Cost: \$200 (serves four)-\$400 (eight)
Order by: 6 p.m. Sunday
Pickup: 3-5 p.m. Nov. 26; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Nov. 27

Cyrano's Bistrot & Wine Bar

546 N. Wells St. 312-467-0546
Break free from the tired turkey routine with a to-go meal from this River North French restaurant, which offers rotisserie-roasted fowl (duck, chicken—or turkey, if you insist) plus four appetizers and four sides, soup, cheese and dessert.
Cost: \$45 per person
Order by: 2 p.m. Nov. 26
Pickup: 11 a.m.-noon Nov. 27

Sixteen

401 N. Wabash Ave. 312-588-8030
Do it up big like The Donald at this upscale restaurant in the Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago. The to-go menu provides a choice of maple-roasted turkey or roasted prime rib and includes yam casserole, cassis-cranberry chutney and more.
Cost: Turkey \$295, prime rib \$405 (serves six-eight)
Order by: 9:30 p.m. Sunday
Pickup: 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Nov. 26; 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Nov. 27

Thrifty

Sheffield's

3258 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-4989
Forget turkey-friendly wines like riesling—you need a beer to survive Thanksgiving with your relatives. This Lakeview bar hooks you up with beer pairings (Sierra Nevada Celebration Ale and Unibroue Quelque Chose) when you order a carryout meal. The supper for six, which includes turkey, four sides and pumpkin pie, comes hot or chilled.
Cost: \$100; \$149.95 with beer
Order by: 5 p.m. Nov. 26
Pickup: 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Nov. 27

Silver Cloud Bar & Grill

1700 N. Damen Ave. 773-716-7200
Are you the type who eschews cranberry sauce to save room for an extra slice of pie? This Bucktown bar offers an a la carte carryout menu (available hot or chilled), so you can load

Mid-range

Custom House

500 S. Dearborn St. 312-523-0200
Shawn McClain's South Loop contemporary American spot is offering sides and desserts only. Go ahead, pretend you made that green bean casserole everyone's raving about—we won't tell.
Cost: Sides \$6-\$12 (serves two-four); \$10-\$18 (six-eight); desserts \$6-\$18
Order by: Noon Monday
Pickup: 9 a.m.-noon, 2-6 p.m. Nov. 26

Trotter's To Go

1337 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-868-6510
It's a bit of a stretch, but the out-of-towners at your table won't dare question you when you tell them Charlie Trotter cooked dinner. The a la carte lineup at Trotter's takeout operation offers selections such as herb-roasted turkey and Yukon Gold potato puree.
Cost: Turkey: \$70 (serves six-eight)-\$85 (8-12); sides \$10-\$30 (two-four)
Order by: 6 p.m. Sunday
Pickup: 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Nov. 26; 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Nov. 27

Hearty Boys Catering

3819 N. Broadway 773-244-9866
The Food Network devotees at your table will be all aflutter when you order from Dan Smith and Steve McDonagh, stars of "Party Line with the Hearty Boys." You have to bake their brined turkey, but it's easy: The bird is oven-ready. Sides such as three-cheese scalloped potatoes just need a reheat.
Cost: Turkey: \$4-\$6 per pound; sides: \$8-\$11 per pound; \$18-\$20 per pie/cake
Order by: Noon Tuesday
Pickup: 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Nov. 27

up on your faves. Selections include turkey, creamed corn and pumpkin pie.
Cost: Turkey: \$6.95 per pound; sides: \$5.95-\$6.95 per quart; pies \$13.95
Order by: 11 p.m. Tuesday
Pickup: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Nov. 26

The Smoke Daddy Rhythm and Bar-B-Que

1804 W. Division St. 773-772-6656
If you'd rather watch football than keep an eye on a smoker on Thanksgiving, try this Wicker Park 'cue spot. The carryout menu features wood-smoked turkey, cornbread stuffing and mac and cheese.
Cost: Turkey: \$4.95 per pound; stuffing: \$7 per quart; mac and cheese: \$12 per quart
Order by: 10 p.m. Thursday
Pickup: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Nov. 25-26

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BETWEEN BOUTIQUE CAFE AND LOUNGE

Half-price martinis, half-price spicy burgers and fries (6 p.m.-midnight); 1324 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-292-0585.

BLUE BAYOU

\$2.50 domestic drafts, \$4 Jack and Coke cocktails, \$4 Abita beers, half-price bottles of house wine; 3734 N. Southport Ave. 773-871-3300.

BOURBON ON LINCOLN

Whiskey Wednesday. Half-price whiskies, \$5 pulled pork sandwiches; 3244 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-880-9520.

BRANDO'S SPEAKEASY

\$3 Patron shots, import beers and select cocktails; 343 S. Dearborn St. 773-216-3213.

CAT'S MEOW

\$5 artisan cheese plates, \$5 flatbreads, \$6 glasses of wine; 2700 W. Chicago Ave. 773-489-6998.

CELTIC CROWN

\$4 Guinness, Bass and black 'n' tan drafts, \$5.99 shepherd's pies, \$12 domestic table tappers, half-

price Harp drafts and select cocktails, pub trivia 7:30 p.m.; 4301 N. Western Ave. 773-588-1110.

THE CENTRAL

\$1 Miller Lite bottles or drafts, \$3 flatbreads; 3466 N. Clark St. 773-880-2222.

CLYBAR AND GRILLE

\$3 Effen cocktails, \$4 mojitos, \$5 martinis, half-price salads and wraps; 2417 N. Clybourn Ave. 773-388-1877.

THE COACH HOUSE

Half-price martinis; 950 W. Wolfram St. 773-665-5660.

CORTLAND'S GARAGE

\$3 Bud and Bud Light bottles, \$5 Ketel One cocktails; 1645 W. Cortland St. 773-862-7877.

CROBAR

Tropical Wednesdays. DJs spin salsa, merengue, club and reggaeton 10 p.m. \$10; 1543 N. Kingsbury St. 312-266-1900.

CUBBY BEAR

\$2 Coors and Blue Moon bottles, \$2 select cocktails, live band karaoke; 1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662.

DELILAH'S

\$2 PBR longnecks and Old Crow cocktails; 2771 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-472-2771.

EVIL OLIVE

Simply Soul Wednesdays. \$6 20-ounce Stella bombs, DJs spin. \$5; 1551 W. Division St. 773-235-9100.

NIGHTCRAWLERS

'Chef' watchers

Foodie fans gathered at **Cans Bar and Canteen** (1640 N. Damen Ave. 773-227-2277) last week to watch the premiere episode of Bravo's "Top Chef," during which our hometown cheftestant, Radhika Desai, fell behind in the Quickfire challenge but managed to pull through and avoid elimination. The party continues each Wednesday, starting at 8 p.m. with a replay of the previous week's episode, followed by the latest show at 9 p.m. Head to metromix.com to read our "Top Chef" blog.



CHUAN D. VO FOR METROMIX

FEARON'S PUBLIC HOUSE
\$4 Blue Moon drafts,
\$5 Kilo Kai and Coke
cocktails, \$6 chicken
fajitas; 3001 N. Ashland
Ave. 773-248-0990.

THE FULL SHILLING
25 cent wings, \$2
select cocktails, \$2.50
domestic bottles, \$3
Roaring Lion Energy
cocktails; 3724 N. Clark
St. 773-248-3330.

GLASCOTT'S
\$3.50 Guinness, Harp
and Smithwick's pints;
2158 N. Halsted St. 773-
281-1205.

THE GLOBE PUB
\$3 well drinks, \$10
Bud buckets, acoustic
open mic 9 p.m.; 1934
W. Irving Park Rd. 773-
871-3757.

GOODBAR
\$3 drafts, two-for-one
shots; 2512 N. Halsted
St. 773-296-9700.

GOOSE ISLAND BREWPUB
\$1 off beer of the day,
half-price appetizers
(4-6 p.m.); 1800 N.
Clybourn Ave. 312-915-
0071.

THE GRAND CENTRAL
\$2 sangrias, 312 drafts
and Bud bottles and
drafts, half-price
sandwiches; 950 W.
Wrightwood Ave. 773-
832-4000.

GRAND RIVER
7 p.m.: "America's Next
Top Model" viewing
party. Watch "America's
Next Top Model" and
take advantage of
Ladies' Night specials,
including \$5 wraps and
glasses of wine, plus \$3
lemon drop shots; 3032
N. Lincoln Ave. 773-281-
9900.

HIDEOUT
\$2 PBR and Old Style
cans, \$2.50 Berghoff
bottles; 1354 W.
Wabansia Ave. 773-227-
4433.

HYDRATE
\$4 Stoli cocktails, Stoli
bombs and Corona
bottles; 3458 N. Halsted
St. 773-975-9244.

INNJOY
\$2.75 Coors Light
bottles, \$4 Sam Adams
drafts, half-price large
pizzas; 2051 W. Division
St. 773-394-2066.

J BAR
Wii Wednesdays.
\$5 Effen cocktails,
free appetizers (6-8
p.m.); RSVP to andy@jameshotels.com; 610
N. Rush St. 312-660-
7200.

JUNIOR'S
Half-price appetizers,
\$5 mojitos; 724 W.
Maxwell St. 312-421-
2277.

KINCADE'S
\$1 domestic bottles, \$5
select bombs, karaoke
9 p.m.; 950 W. Armitage
Ave. 773-348-0010.

LIAR'S CLUB
\$2 PBR cans, \$3 Shiner
Bock bottles and Stoli
shots; 1665 W. Fullerton
Ave. 773-665-1110.

MAEVE
7 p.m.: Stock the Bar
wine tasting. Sample
vino paired with meats
and cheeses and get
ideas for wines to
serve at your holiday
party. Like what you're
sipping? Order up
a bottle to serve at
home. Afterward, Louis
and Scharpf play live
acoustic tunes. \$20;
1325 W. Wrightwood
Ave. 773-388-3333.

MAHONEY'S PUB & GRILLE
8 p.m.: Road to
Fame (semi-finals).
Contestants sing
a cappella for a rotating
panel of judges
including columnist
Susanna Homan, Elvis
impersonator Mark
"Elvis" Hussman,
members of alt-rock
band Lovehammers
and DJ Tim Pogo. The
winner gets \$500 cash
and a trip to L.A. to
perform for a talent
scout at Rush Street.
No cover; 551 N. Ogden
Ave. 312-733-2121.

STATE RESTAURANT & CAFE
Half-price food and
bottles of wine; 935 W.
Webster Ave. 773-975-
8030.

TSUNAMI
7 p.m.: Wine Pairing
Wednesday. Sample
five Japanese vintages
and culinary creations
at this monthly tasting.
A wine expert is on
hand to discuss the
pairings. \$47; 1160 N.
Dearborn St. 312-642-
9911.

Random Acts of Greatness

5

things we're loving this week

1 Yet another reason to watch the Bears game with a pal: Every two people who order a drink on Sundays at Addiction Sports Bar and Grill (1023 W. Lake St. 312-421-8845) score **free wings**.

2 Danny Boyle's excellent fairy tale "Slumdog Millionaire," playing at Landmark Century Centre Cinema (2828 N. Clark St. 773-509-4949). Several shows sold out over the weekend; try again mid-week and see what everyone's raving about (you know, besides the new Bond movie).



The Boundary

3 Turkey burgers get a bad wrap for being dry, boring or both, but **The Gobbler** at The Boundary (1932 W. Division St. 773-278-1919) is a deliciously gooey mess, topped with mozzarella cheese, avocado and cranberry aioli (\$9.50).

4 **Hearty veggie fare** at the Handlebar (2311 W. North Ave. 773-384-9546), such as the black bean tostadas appetizer (\$5.75), a trio of thick homemade discs smothered with beans, cheese, onions, salsa and avocado.

5 As if we weren't spoiled enough with their quick weekday breakfasts and amazing weekend brunch, **Vella Cafe** (1912 N. Western Ave. 773-489-7777) is **now open for dinner** Wednesday-Friday. Look for pizzas, salads and new desserts—including custom-made Black Dog gelato flavors.

Join the randomness!

What are you loving this week? Log onto metromix.com to send us your own Random Acts of Greatness. You might just spot your pick in a future issue.

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12/6...Munroe

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Singer Matt Skiba (center) and Alkaline Trio

Rebel with a cause

Alkaline Trio leaves the Chicago area for L.A. and replaces anger with ... meditation?

By Kirk Miller

Meditation. Surfing. "The Hills." These are not the topics you expect to discuss with Matt Skiba.

As the lead singer of punk rock vets Alkaline Trio, the Chicago-area native (who departed for California in the early '00s) won a legion of hardcore fans with his tales of suffering and woe, all laced with dollops of gore, dark humor and alcohol-fueled pathos. But times change, and so do bands. The Trio recently celebrated both a decade of existence and the release of its latest record, "Agony and Irony," an album that sees the group replace its speedy tempos and dark vibes with a melodic, almost New Wave (and New Age) sensibility.

We spoke with Skiba, 32, about the change and why Lauren, Heidi and the gang can't harsh on his newfound mellow.

You were recently a guest on, of all things, "The Hills." How did that go over with fans?

The experience was, for us, just another day in the studio, but with more video cameras. One of the girls on the show, Audrina, is an intern at our new label, Epic Records. Her sister is a huge fan of ours and had a child named after one of our songs, "Sadie." I'm not sure they know what the song is about. Anyway, I've never seen the show, and I don't watch TV. If it was something no one watched, we would have done it [anyway], because this person was a fan. But I guess 6 million people a week watch it. And yeah, the backlash was incredible. I couldn't believe it. It was like we had invaded Poland. But I really don't care what people think of our decision. We'd do it again.

Alkaline Trio with Rise Against

When: 7 p.m. Thu.-Fri.

Where: Congress Theater, 2135 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Tickets: \$27.50, 888-512-7469

Your new album is called "Agony and Irony." I'm assuming it's a play on "Ebony and Ivory"?

We're always sitting around playing word games. Before we had even written this record, I came up with that snappy title. Our last record was going to be called "Church and Destroy," but it didn't make sense. But this title fit the subjects we discuss. And, yes, these are the things that keep me up at night.

You've written songs about the Donner Party, the Manson Family and now late Joy Division singer Ian Curtis. What attracts you to tragic figures?

We're all intrigued by something that's foreign to us, and I think we're naturally attracted to the macabre. And the song, "Help Me," about Ian Curtis, is more of a positive thing, how a guy who lived a short, tragic life left something so beautiful for us.

Considering the topics on some of your early records—alcohol, Satanism, death, bad relationships—do you find some of those songs hard to sing now that you're in a different space?

I did for a while. I got wrapped up in my own ego ... you know, "our newest stuff is the best, and I only want to play that!" But there are people who want to hear those old songs. And we have an appreciation for them. ... I mean, the lyrics to a song like "Cringe" seem embarrassing now, but it's gotten us where we are now, and we're proud of those songs.

You've recently professed your admiration of Transcendental Meditation. Is that something that influences you?

It's pretty much a huge part of who I am. I don't want to tell people it'll change your life, but even that doesn't do it justice. Actually, I was meditating before I talked to you. It's become like eating or breathing to me. ... And practicing it, I can now say I honestly live a fear- and anxiety-free life since I started this. I flipped myself entirely.

Even though you're a Left Coaster now, do you miss Chicago?

I don't miss the weather, though in spring and fall, there isn't a better city. I have a lot of good friends there, and there are aspects I miss, but I love California. I get to surf a lot.

When you did live here, did you see local bands like Rise Against and Fall Out Boy starting to make their mark?

We've been friends with Rise Against forever. And I was friendly with Fall Out Boy from the Fireside Bowl scene. Now that they're huge—well, Chicago represent, you know?

KIRK MILLER IS A METROMIX EDITOR.
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Metromix's top shows



Greg Laswell

GREG LASWELL

The kind of pop-rock that sounds better in winter. With Jenny Owen Youngs, Brendan Losch.
8 p.m. \$12. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

INGRID

MICHAELSON
Anybody watch VH1? With Newton Faulkner, David Ford.
6:30 p.m. \$20. Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. 312-559-1212.

THE SMASHING PUMPKINS

A hot up-and-coming local band. 15 years ago.
7:30 p.m. Sold out. The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St. 312-559-1212.

PELICAN

Who says metal needs lyrics? With Kayo Dot, Stephen Brodsky.
8:30 p.m. \$12-\$14. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. housecallent.com

ALFONSO PONTICELLI AND SWING GITAN

9 p.m. \$25-\$30. The Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

ANNA MAURY

8:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Underground Wonder Bar, 10 E. Walton St. 312-266-7761.

BABAGAGE, ASSDONKULA, LAUREN FROST

9 p.m. Free. Red Line Tap, 7006 N. Glenwood Ave. 773-274-5463.

BIG RAY AND CHICAGO'S MOST WANTED

9:30 p.m. \$7. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

BLITZKID, THE MASSACRES, STANG STOMPER, THE HORRIDS

8 p.m. \$12. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

DIR EN GREY, THE HUMAN ABSTRACT

6:30 p.m. \$27-\$29. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

DREW EMMITT BAND, BMR4

7:30 p.m. \$20-\$25. The Morse Theatre, 1328 Morse Ave. 773-654-5100.

FRANK CATALANO SEXTET

2 a.m. Free. The Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

JAMES MCMURTRY, PAT MCDONALD

9 p.m. \$17-\$20. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

JEFF MARX TRIO

8:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Velvet Lounge, 67 E. Cermak Rd. 312-791-9050.

JIMMY BURNS, ANDRE TAYLOR AND THE BLUES ALLEY CATS

9:30 p.m. \$12. Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted St. 773-477-4646.

KENNY PHELPS

8 p.m. Free. Redhead Piano Bar, 16 W. Ontario St. 312-640-1000.

KILLER RAY ALLISON

9:30 p.m. \$7. Rosa's Lounge, 3420 W. Armitage Ave. 773-342-0452.

THE LAUREATES, PICTURE BOOKS, FAKE FICTIONS

9:30 p.m. \$7. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

MARS WILLIAMS, KENT KESSLER, STEVE HUNT, JAIMIE BRANCH

9:30 p.m. \$6. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

MICHAEL COLEMAN

9:30 p.m. \$10. Buddy Guy's Legends, 754 S. Wabash Ave. 312-427-0333.

MIKE SMITH QUARTET

9 p.m. \$10. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

NASHVILLE WRECKERS, TWIN CATS, BRICE WOODALL, KRIS RACER

8 p.m. \$7. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

RAW FOOTAGE BAND, MY BLUE TRAIN, MEDICINE HAT

9 p.m. \$6-\$8. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY'S CHICAGO COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS CHAMBER AND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

7:30 p.m. Free. Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park, 205 E. Randolph Drive. 312-334-7777.

SWEET COBRA, THE CURTAINS OF NIGHT, CALTROP, QUALMS

9:30 p.m. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

TWILIGHT REVIVAL, AWESOME GARY, I LUV LUV BIRDS

8 p.m. \$6-\$9. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

THE VINDITS, CONFUSION, PETE DRESSMAN, A WU LI CONSPIRACY, RYAN SUZUKA

8:30 p.m. \$7. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

THE WABASH CANNONBALLS, THE WISEBLOODS

9 p.m. Free. Quenchers Saloon, 2401 N. Western Ave. 773-276-9730.

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On sale 10 a.m. Wednesday

Alive Day, Grammar, Wednesday, Dec. 18 (\$7, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Booty Movement Coalition, Monday, Dec. 29 (\$8, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Cobalt and the Hired Guns, The Dirty Blue, Friday, Jan. 2 (\$7, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Fleshtone Burlesque, Tuesday, Dec. 16 (\$10, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Toby Lightman, Sunday, Dec. 7 (\$12, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Rebirth Brass Band, Friday, Feb. 13, Saturday, Feb. 14 (\$17, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Vital Light, Suzy Brack and the New Jack Lords, Thursday, Dec. 11 (\$7, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Waco Brothers, Federales, Hurt'n Kind, Friday, Jan. 16 (\$25, 21+) at Martyrs'.

Aaron Williams, Royal Pines, Baxter, Tuesday, Dec. 9 (\$6, 21+) at Martyrs'.

On sale 10 a.m. Friday

Blues Traveler, Tuesday, Dec. 30 (\$27-\$29, 17+) at House of Blues.

Jonny Lang, Thursday, Jan. 29 (\$39-\$41.50, 17+) at House of Blues.

North Mississippi All-Stars, Saturday, Feb. 7 (\$23-\$25, 17+) at House of Blues.

Railroad Earth, Saturday, March 28 (\$17-\$20, 17+) at House of Blues.

Trapt, Thursday, Dec. 11 (\$15-\$17.50, all ages) at House of Blues.

On sale noon Friday

Adam and the Weight, Saturday, Dec. 13 (\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

Chi-Town Blues Festival: Bobby "Blue" Bland, Willie Clayton, Shirley Brown, Floyd Taylor, Theodis Ealey, Bobby Rush, Saturday, March 14 (\$49-\$57, all ages) at Star Plaza Theatre, Merrillville, Ind.

Passion Pit, Paper Route, Cale Parks, Tuesday, Jan. 27 (\$10-\$12, 18+) at Schubas.

Trampled by Turtles, Wednesday, Jan. 21 (\$10-\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

Virginia Coalition, Friday, Jan. 9 (\$12-\$14, 21+) at Schubas.

Vulgar Boatmen, Saturday, Jan. 10 (\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

On sale 10 a.m. Saturday

Brett Dennen, Thursday, Feb. 26 (\$18, all ages) at Park West.

Galactic, The Mighty Underdogs, Friday, Feb. 6 (\$26, 18+) at Vic Theatre.

Motley Crue, Hinder, Theory of a Deadman, Wednesday, Feb. 11 (\$24.75-\$95, all ages) at I Wireless Center, Moline, Sunday, Feb. 15 (\$29.50-\$95, all ages) at Rockford MetroCentre.

Thievery Corporation, Friday, Feb. 20 (\$41, 18+) at Riviera Theatre.

On sale noon Saturday

Dan Auerbach, Hacienda, Those Darlins, Friday, March 6 (\$20, 18+) at Metro.

Rodney Carrington, Saturday, March 7 (\$45, all ages) at Star Plaza Theatre, Merrillville, Ind.

The Dirty Blue, Friday, Dec. 26 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.

Femi Kuti and the Positive Force, Saturday, Jan. 17 (\$25-\$28, 18+) at Metro.

Hum, Thursday, Jan. 1 (\$20, 21+) at Double Door.

Kumasfest, Saturday, Dec. 20 (\$15, 21+) at Double Door.

Little Big Town, Zac Brown Band, Sunday, March 15 (\$35, all ages) at Star Plaza Theatre, Merrillville, Ind.

Mustard Plug, Deals Gone Bad, Dan Potthast, Sunday, Dec. 28 (\$11-\$13, all ages) at Metro.

They Might Be Giants, Friday, Dec. 5 (\$25, 21+) at Metro.

On sale 10 a.m. Monday

LaBelle, Saturday, Jan. 10 (\$50-\$89.50, all ages) at Chicago Theatre.


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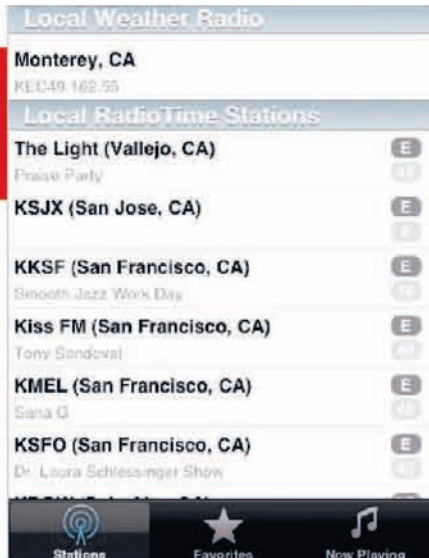

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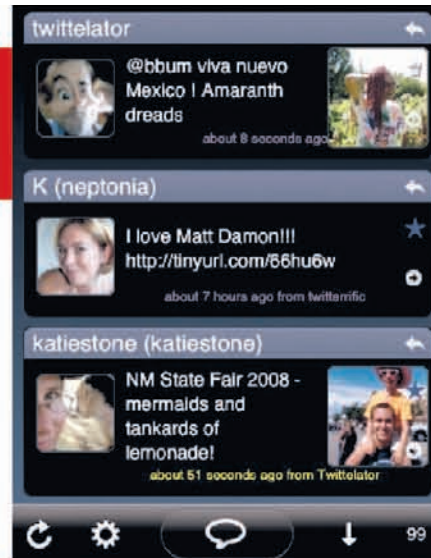
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Wunderbar. Who knew a weather company could create a streaming radio app and do it so well? Download and listen to pretty much any radio station you've ever listened to. One of my absolute favorites.



2. Twittelator Pro

I have four Twitter apps on my iPhone and this one is my hands-down favorite. The developer clearly uses Twitter often and realizes what people are looking for.



3. iTV

TV listings and movie listings are just the beginning. Now, manage your Netflix account right in the sharp-looking app. That and the developers promise even more amazing stuff.

Apptacular

So many apps for the iPhone, so little time. Here are the 10 must-haves and 40 others that rule

If you own an iPhone, you know there are thousands of applications available for download from the iTunes App Store. ¶ If you have a lot of patience and time, you could download them all and decide which ones you like the most. ¶ Or, you could let me, RedEye's iPhone expert, narrow it down for you. ¶ Here are 50 apps you should have on your iPhone, including 10 that will change your life.



4. Facebook

I'm not sure what I'd do if I couldn't update my status while riding the bus or waiting for a table. Update to version 2.0, making it better than ever.



5. Wurdle

Here's a word: Addictive. I've gotten three hours of sleep on many an occasion because of this darn game. Curse you, Wurdle, for being so much fun.



6. MyWeather Mobile

Elegant weather app with the best looping radar I've ever seen on a mobile device.



7. Ocarina

It's the iPhone meets the pan flute. Blow into your iPhone's microphone, touch the rippling pond-like circles on your iPhone screen and play a symphony. And then, listen to symphonies from around the world. Absolutely incredible.



8. Google Earth

You know you love zooming in and seeing your car parked on the street in the desktop version. Now, you can see it anywhere—the picture of your car, not your actual car. Anyhow, awesome.



9. Tap-Tap Revenge

In the spirit of Rock Band comes a game that delivers great music, great colors and great fun. And now there's a new Nine Inch Nails version, if Trent Reznor's music is more your speed.



10. Last.FM

A radio station that you control and create by entering your favorite artists. Last.FM then finds artists you might like based on that entry. The coolest part is interacting with friends via groups.



iPTIB

iPhone. Therefore I Blog

SCOTT KLEINBERG
skleinberg@tribune.com

50 MORE APP REVIEWS ONLINE

Want more? Of course you do. Check out Scott's blog at iptib.com for 50 more apps you've got to try, plus in-depth reviews and a look at his list of top soon-to-be-released apps.

OVERHEARD ON TWITTER

We asked iPTIB's Twitter followers to share their favorite apps. Here's what they said.



@babyfishmouth Favorite app is Shazam for most original, AP Mobile News for most used, RTM and Evernote for best productivity and Lux for best game.

@jackhennessy Apple remote let's me access 4 iTunes libraries including many iradio stations and Apple TV all connected to my entertainment center.

**MOBILE FOTOS**

There are a few apps that serve as great gateways to Flickr, and this one does more than the others. You can even upload directly to your favorite groups.

**BLOOMBERG**

There is no cooler way to watch your stocks tank day after day.

**BEEJIVE IM**

An expensive app that's worth every penny if instant messaging is a big part of your day. The integration with MobileMe's push e-mail is genius and worth the price of admission.

**GROCERY IQ**

Never forget milk, vanilla ice cream or Acai berries (delicious on the vanilla ice cream) again with this great grocery store list app. Easy to use and pretty to look at.

**MLB AT BAT**

Major League Baseball hit a grand slam with this app, featuring play-by-play, live updated stats, videos and so much more. Full season comes in February, but for now, download for free and get all your offseason news.

**REMOTE**

Apple's remote is free, elegant and it just works. And when you can control your iTunes via your iPhone at a party, all eyes are on you, not the onion dip.

**AIR SHARING**

Got something on your desktop that you want on your iPhone? Connect via your home network and voila! Done. What sets Air Sharing apart is that it's so easy to use.

**SHAZAM**

What is the name of that song? It's driving me crazy! Hold your iPhone up to the sound source and Shazam tells you the name. It's freakishly cool and fun.

**ACCOUNTS**

A bunch of apps download transactions from your bank and keep your checkbook neat and balanced. This isn't those apps. Accounts is just a simple substitute for your old paper check register.

**MS. PAC-MAN**

It's just not as fun controlling Ms. Pac-Man on the iPhone as it is in the arcade, but I have to recommend it. Finally, a pleasant memory from my childhood.

**TEXAS HOLD'EM**

Apple's other app. And boy can Apple play poker! No bluffing—great graphics, sound keep you entertained for hours.

**IMANGI**

Addictive like Wurdle. Make words across and down, but be careful because you have to share the letters. Latest version lets you challenge people abroad.

**MOTION X POKER**

Shake your iPhone to roll the dice. Seriously? Seriously, and the phone vibrates while it's happening. I was hooked the first time I tried it. Five of a kind unlocks special dice. As cool as it sounds.

**LED FOOTBALL**

Just like the handheld electronic game from the 70s/early 80s. I remember it well ... Just me, that red blip, the whistle sound and a long car ride. For 99 cents, you owe it to yourself to be whisked back in time.

**FLICK BOWLING**

Strike!! To me, this is the best bowling app in the App Store. It has everything but the fan you put your hands under when waiting for the ball to come back.

**ESPN CAMERAMAN**

Remember those games where you see two photos and you try to find what's different about one of them? That's this. It's sports related, but you don't have to be a sports fan to enjoy it.

**THE WEATHER CHANNEL**

Of all the weather apps in the app store this is the only one with an actual video local forecast that's updated often. Sets it apart from the others, but lacks looping radar. Hopefully coming soon.

**CHICAGO TRIBUNE SPORTS READER**

Doesn't make the list not because I work for the company, but because it's fun, user-friendly and one of the most unique ways to get your daily sports fix.

**DISTANT SUNS**

Like a planetarium in your pocket. You'll know everything about the sky, sun, moon, planets and beyond with this beautifully-designed and easy-to-use app.

**REAL SOCCER 2009**

Goooooooooooooooooooooooooal!! Shows how bright the future of mobile gaming on the iPhone really is. Fluid play, beautiful 3-D graphics and a lot of fun.

**STANZA**

It's like iTunes for books, complete with a cover flow-type view. Read electronic books—more than 40,000 titles available.

**TOPPLE**

And I thought Tetris was addictive. But oh, the graphics, the music, the facial expressions—absolutely worth the 99 cents.

**TODO**

Manage your tasks like you never could before—simple, elegant and fun. Connect with desktop apps and other iPhone apps for even more organization.

**NEWSSTAND**

RSS reader with a twist—literally. Turn your iPhone width-wise and the usual text turns into a magazine-shelf type layout.

**SONIC LIGHTER**

There are a bunch of lighter apps, but only Smule's lets you blow out the flame with your breath and tap the globe to see where other lighters are ignited. Guaranteed to make you—or anyone else—say wow!

**PRO FOOTBALL LIVE**

Unfortunately, the NFL doesn't have an official app like MLB does, but for anyone who loves football (the American kind), well, this should do just fine. Plus, social features let you interact with other fans.

**SOMBA GASHOUND**

Luckily the price of gas is going down, but that doesn't mean you don't want to find a bargain. Search by current location or enter a location to find a station. The company donates profits to clean-energy research.

**PLUM RECORD**

Audio recorder that lets you use a corresponding free server program to send the recordings to your computer. And, coolest recording app icon—a parrot! Polly wanna a good app? Squawk!!

**TRISM**

Think a little bit Bejeweled, a little bit Tetris and then add the power of twisting and tilting on your iPhone and you've got Trism. Colorful and just plain cool.

**LOOP T**

Pinch, tap and drag your interactive map to find out where your friends are and what they're up to. Connects with Facebook, MySpace and Twitter and you can even find and meet new people nearby.

**WEIGHTBOT**

It's a robot that tracks your weight and lets you see how you are doing on a graph. Plus, if you don't want anyone to see your progress, you can password protect it. Bonus points for cool icon.

**MOBILE ZODIAC**

You'll download a great app today—and maybe meet your soulmate. The former is more likely to happen than the latter.

**FRING**

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**VOICEBOX DIALER**

Hold your iPhone 6 to 8 inches from your mouth, press the talk button and say a command and release. Now, saying "call Scott" has never been easier.

**PANDORA**

Free personalized radio lets you stream the music you want on your iPhone. Similar to Last.fm, and you can't go wrong with either.

**MYSPACE MOBILE**

If you are a MySpace user, you shouldn't be without this app. Update status, your profile, your mood, see what your friends—including Tom—are up to, read bulletins, mail, comments and find people.

**LIGHTSABER UNLEASHED**

Never mind that your iPhone is a sophisticated Internet device ... it's a lightsaber with multiple colors. Swing your phone and amaze your friends—and potentially scare others.

**METROMIX WHAT'S NEARBY**

Find a spot to eat or drink in a variety of cities from Atlanta to Washington. And if you have no idea where to go or what to do, try the Magic Shaker—shake your iPhone and let it recommend a place for you.

**MEMEOPHOTO**

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**CROSSWORDS**

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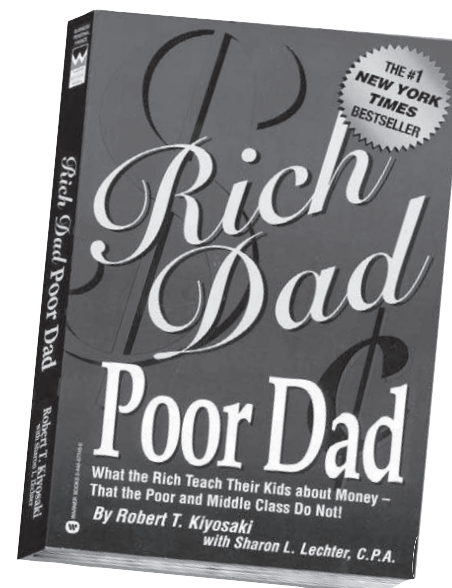
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- Robert Kiyosaki



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Survey: Eating habits improving

Americans are getting savvier about eating right and exercising, according to a nationwide survey of 783 men and women by the American Dietetic Association, "Nutrition and You: Trends 2008." **L.A. TIMES**

43%

Percentage of people who said "I'm already doing it" when asked about maintaining a healthful diet and engaging in regular exercise. In 2002, that number was 38 percent.

38%

Percentage of people in the "I know I should" category—those who understand a healthy lifestyle is critical but haven't done much to achieve it. That was up from 30 percent in 2002.

19%

Percentage of people who put themselves in the "don't bother me" category—those not believing that diet and exercise are important. That's down from 32 percent in 2002.

MAKING BETTER CHOICES

According to the study, many people have changed their eating habits to add healthier foods to their diets:

- >> 56 percent are eating more whole-grain foods
- >> 50 percent are eating more vegetables
- >> 48 percent are eating more fruits
- >> 42 percent are eating more chicken



At the same time, many people are cutting other foods from their diets. According to the survey:

- >> 41 percent are eating less beef
- >> 33 percent are eating less pork
- >> 23 percent are eating less dairy

LOOKING FOR HELP

In 2008, **40 percent** of the respondents said they were seeking more information on nutrition, up from 19 percent in 2000.

SAY WHAT?

Participants were asked to rank major and minor reasons for not wanting to do more to attain a balanced diet:

Said they're satisfied with the way they eat ... **79%**

Said they don't want to give up the foods they like ... **73%**

Said they didn't understand diet/nutrition guidelines ... **41%**

Save your hair

Hair loss is partly linked to age—although many young people deal with the problem—making it partly genetic too. Stylists say there are ways to slow down the process—or at least to look less bald. **MCT**

Dry gently: After washing your hair, pat it down with a soft towel rather than rubbing vigorously.

Get the right brush ...: Choose one with soft bristles and brush gently.

... and the right shampoo: Pick a product—even a baby shampoo—that has as few chemicals as possible.

Use a detangler: A cream rinse can spare you from having to use a comb or brush to break through tangles.

Avoid hair dryers: Hot air can damage proteins in hair and make it more likely to break. If you do use a dryer, keep it on the lowest setting.

Keep it loose: Styles that put a lot of strain on hair, such as tight ponytails, can make strands fall out faster.

Don't panic: It's normal to shed a good amount of hair—some stylists say 50 to 100 strands—every day.

Consult a doctor: Some people have luck with creams and other treatments designed to slow hair loss.

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A quick brush-up on hipster speak

Houston Chronicle

If the terms “guyatus” or “brodeo” sound as foreign to you as Farsi, you might be a “Priustoric.”

If the shorthand for a young woman’s break from dating or the slang for a friendly gathering of dudes is not a part of your daily lexicon, your vocabulary is stuck in time—as in, the days before the Prius went on the market.

Don’t feel too bad, though. Hipster vernacular is a transient thing. A quick brush-up is all you need.

“It’s the language of the ‘Sex and the City’ generation,” said Dannielle Kyrillos, editor at large of the DailyCandy Web site, where urban chick-sters flock to stay in the know.

So it goes to figure that Kyrillos and her colleagues compiled the “DailyCandy Lexicon: Words That Don’t Exist But Should,” a glossary that is sure to help uber-busy urbanite gals save time. Why waste precious moments on a sentence if there’s a pithier, wittier alternative?

Think of it as, like, the reincarnation of ’80s Valley girl speak.

But the dudes have their own slanguage too—consisting mostly of words and the prefix “bro,” an old-school shorthand for “brother.”

“It could even get a little bit crazy or something,” said BJ Heinley, the Austin-based owner of the Web domain **brodeo.com**.

And don’t knock these buzzwords until you try them. “Mouse potato,” describing someone glued to her computer mouse rather than the TV remote, landed a spot in the Oxford English Dictionary.

If the latest slang remains elusive, never mind. By the time you read this, it’ll already be over.

SLANGUAGE GLOSSARY

Dudespeak

Broham: Since “bro” is passe, dudes in the know use this term when referring to a closest guy pal.

Bromance: A relationship between brohams who are inseparable but not lovers.

Brodeo: Major hangout place among brohams.

Brohemian: A flip-flop-wearing, carbon-print-shrinking, die-hard liberal.

Chicktalk

Decibelle: A woman who, after a couple of drinks, suddenly cannot control the volume of her voice.

Haltress: The crotchety waitress who clearly doesn’t care about getting a good tip.

Ickyyaki: Scary-looking sushi.

Margarithim: (Pronounced: Margareet-him) The act of drinking a margarita to loosen up before meeting a guy. As in, “If you’re interested, you’re going to have to margarithim.”

More slang

Crappuccino: A \$4-plus coffee concoction that tastes like the bottom of your shoe.

Brojak: A broham without a hair on his shiny head.

Mallternative: One of the neo-punk, goth or otherwise anti-establishment wannabes who shop at Hot Topic.

MORE ONLINE

For up-to-the-minute slanguage and translations, visit RedEye’s Word on the Street blog at redeyechicago.com/word.

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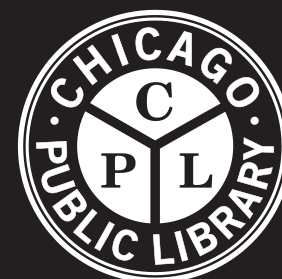


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Apartment, condo dwellers go green

Associated Press

Environmentally conscious condo and apartment dwellers can't be blamed for feeling a bit, well, green over those living in detached homes, free to make just about any Earth-friendly renovations they like.

Unless they live in a building with a homeowners association that has embraced the Earth-friendly way, condo owners are decidedly limited by comparison in the range of upgrades they can make to enhance their energy savings.

And renters—often times they're lucky if they can get permission to paint, much less rip out flooring, countertops and cabinets.

But those are not reasons to ignore the trove of products that can whittle down that carbon footprint, eradicate airborne toxins and beef up the use of recyclables, experts say.

Here are their recommendations:

Light bulbs

The first things condo and apartment residents should do to cut their energy costs is

toss out their incandescent light bulbs and replace them with compact fluorescent bulbs or LEDs, light-emitting diodes, said Russell Albanese, president of the Albanese Organization, which has built several green residential high-rises in New York City. Compact fluorescent light bulbs start at about \$4, with many models above \$10. LEDs with comparable light output to household lamp incandescent lights typically are around \$30.

Programmable thermostats

They can be used to manage when the air conditioning or heat turns on, so that they're on for less time during the day when the unit is empty. "It can save you a lot of energy if you're away from home a lot," says Jay Hall, a technical consultant for the U.S. Green Building Council, an industry trade group.

Dual-flush toilets

With prices starting around \$400, dual-flush toilets give users two options on how much water to use per flush, which can save water.



Bamboo is one choice for environmentally sustainable flooring. MCTFILE

Flooring

Those thinking about redoing their flooring have more environmentally sustainable choices than ever, including reclaimed wood, bamboo, cork and natural linoleum, which is made out of flax seed, linseed oil and other biodegradable materials. Bamboo and cork flooring come in a variety of finishes. They typically start at around \$3.50 a square foot, with some styles going for twice that or as low as \$2 at some retailers.

Kitchen cabinets

Cabinets also can be redone with similar alternatives to wood, including composite veneer, which can be made to look like exotic woods.

The options for swapping out kitchen counters for more eco-friendly materials now include using recycled bottles and glass recovered from landfills. Metal, reclaimed wood, and stone also are good alternatives, says Sarah Beatty, founder of New York-based Green Depot, a green home building retailer.

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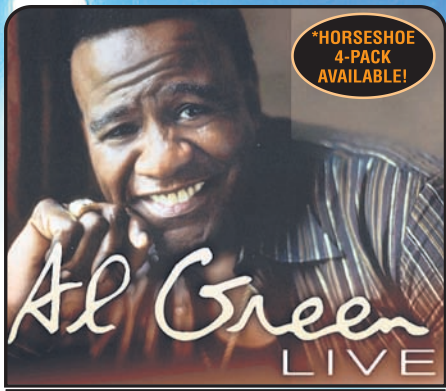
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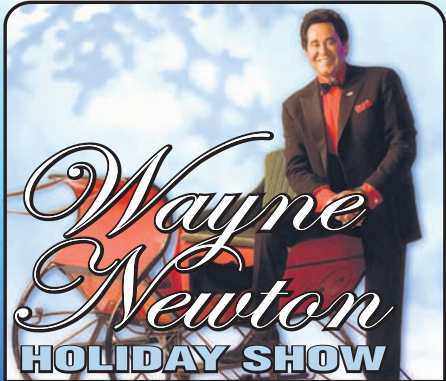
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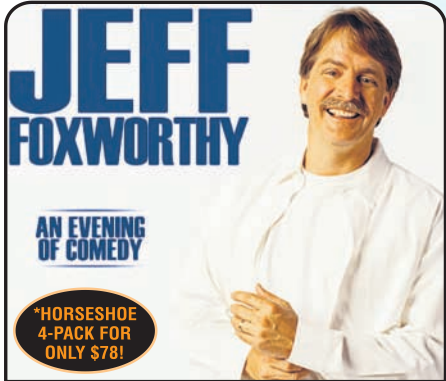
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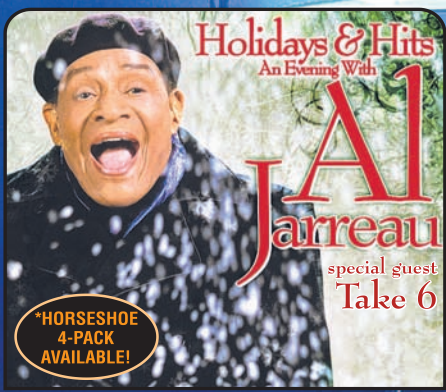
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Favorite show canceled? Try these backups

The Washington Post

The networks aren't spreading holiday cheer at this time of year—at least not to the fans of TV shows that have been canceled. Among the series already axed are NBC's "My Own Worst Enemy" and probably "Lipstick Jungle," CBS's "The Ex List," CW's "Valentine" and Fox's "Do Not Disturb." If you were of fan of those shows or some others in danger, we offer suitable replacements.



⚡ Lipstick Jungle

Cause of death: Shocking lack of size-zero blond lead.

« Emergency backup: "Sex and the City" reruns on TBS. Better shoes, better writing, more blond.



My Own Worst Enemy

Cause of death: Stupid premise.

« Emergency backup: "24" on Fox; movie airs at 8 p.m. Sunday, series returns Jan. 11. Equally stupid premise saved by good pyrotechnics.



Opportunity Knocks

Cause of death: Quiz show starred precocious moppets and parentzzzz ...
Emergency backup: "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" on Fox. Precocious moppets humiliate occasional celebrity.

Do Not Disturb

Cause of death: Retro without the funny.
Emergency backup: "Gary Unmarried" on CBS. Retro without funny, plus Male Pattern Optimism equals inexplicably winning sitcom formula.



Valentine

Cause of death: CW promised a chick-drama based on Greek mythology; teen viewers assumed that meant "fraternity" soap.

Emergency backup: "Gossip Girl" on CW. Ultra-chick-drama without taxing Hellenistic references.

Easy Money

Cause of death: Loan-shark drama too skanky for the "Gossip Girl"/"90210" crowd.

Emergency backup: "Sons of Anarchy" on FX. Motorcycle gangs are the new Mafia.

« The Ex List

Cause of death: Twentysomething pals still lounged in baby pool? Really?
Emergency backup: "Samantha Who?" on ABC. Twentysomething pals hang in bars, as God intended.



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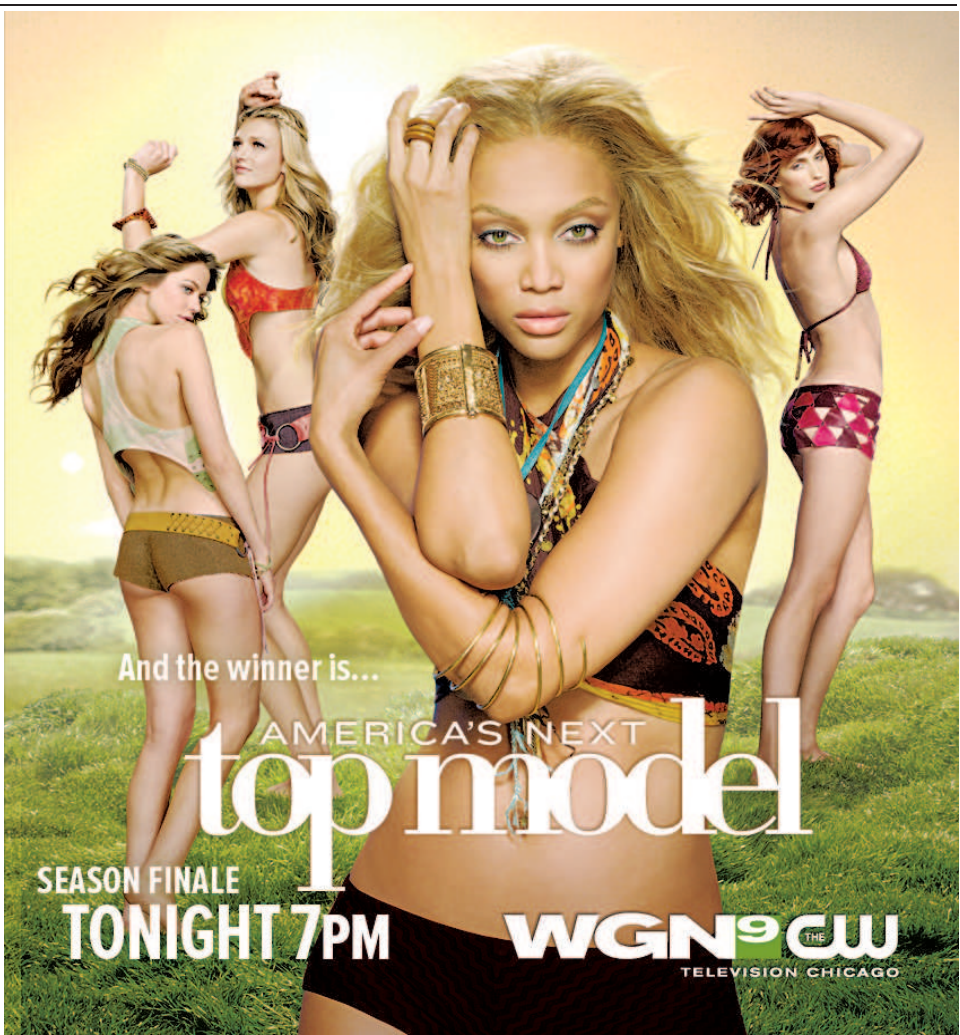
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**Damian Lewis
as Charlie Crews**
NBC

'Life' actor enjoys fruits of his labor

For actor Damian Lewis, playing a character who strives for Zen-like calmness is the perfect fit.

With his worthy cop series, "Life," struggling to gain viewers, Lewis is finding his own peace through fictional L.A. detective Charlie Crews.

"It's actually great to be able to explore [Zen] a little bit through Crews," Lewis told a group of reporters recently. "With this job, as I find with many jobs, art imitates life imitates art."

The NBC drama averages about 6 million viewers per episode this season, down from 8 million last year. Despite that, NBC recently gave it a full season and moved the show from viewer-absent Friday nights to 8 p.m. Wednesday. The network, and a pragmatic Lewis, are hoping for a ratings boost.

"The Wednesday night is good, but we started out on Wednesday night, if anyone's forgotten," Lewis said. "I'm delighted to be on earlier [at 8 p.m.], because I think we'll find a bigger audience."

The show—one of my must-watch hours of TV—hopefully will find an audience, because its character-driven plot lines are a refreshing change in the forensics-and-procedural-heavy TV cop landscape. As played by Lewis, Crews is one of TV's most compelling main characters—amusingly quirky but with a menacing anger brewing just beneath the surface.

In the show's first season, Crews returned to the LAPD after being set up and wrongfully imprisoned for 12 years. He's partnered with troubled detective Dani Reese (Sarah Shahi), who finds his philosophical musings annoying. He's rich (he won a \$50 million settlement for the prison fiasco), eccentric and quick-witted. And he absolutely loves fresh fruit.

"I've eaten some pretty exotic fruit in the last year," Lewis said. "The staples—apples, bananas and oranges—have been left behind for African-Horned Melon and strange pears, and kumquats and passion fruits, and papaya and guavas, and all sort of fun things."

Each week Crews and Reese investigate individual crimes, while Crews continues to secretly hunt for the people who framed him for murder—including Reese's cop father. According to Lewis, the Zen studies keep Crews' rage suppressed.

"[Zen] is really just an anger management tool," Lewis said. "It's at its most practical when it's just stopping him [from] killing people, I think."

For more from the interview with Damian Lewis and co-star Donal Logue, go to redychicago.com/showpatrol.

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OBAMA- RAMA

The official ratings are in, and President-elect Obama drew 25.1 million viewers to CBS' "60 Minutes" on Sunday, according to Nielsen Media Research. It was the No. 1 show of last week. The Top 10 shows for Nov. 10-16 are below:

1. "60 Minutes," CBS, 25.1 million
2. "NBC Sunday Night Football: Dallas at Washington," NBC, 19.27 million
3. "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS, 19.05 million
4. "NCIS," CBS, 18.74 million
5. "Dancing With the Stars," ABC, 18.69 million
6. "Desperate Housewives," ABC, 16.84 million
7. "Dancing With the Stars Results," ABC, 16.52 million
8. "The Mentalist," CBS, 16.52 million
9. "Country Music Association Awards," ABC, 15.9 million
10. "Grey's Anatomy," ABC, 14.9 million

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Making up Madonna

The Denver Post

For Gina Brooke, the magic of a Madonna concert isn't when the pop star is strutting on stage with a full set of backup singers and dancers, but when she drops out of sight.

That's because Brooke, the diva's makeup artist, is waiting along with a hairstylist and two wardrobe assistants to touch up Madonna's face and hair, and help her change into a new costume.

The routine takes 90 seconds, tops.

"If she doesn't get her boot on straight, I can't powder her properly, or she'll go on late and it can be a big issue," Brooke says. The support crew for the "Sticky & Sweet" tour gets a private show by Madonna during the changes. "She's really funny and witty."

Brooke, artistic director for Shu Uemura, carefully preps Madonna before each performance. Here's the routine:

» **Skin:** A threefold complexion boost starts with a spritz of Depsea Facial Mist with a rose scent. Next Brooke applies a 5-minute moisturizing eye mask and applies Phyto Black Lift Firming Anti-Wrinkle Cream, a rich moisturizer.

» **Face:** Face Architect Remodeling Cream Foundation "gives the illusion of glowing, dewy skin, but she has beautiful skin anyway," Brooke says. Next, Base Control is applied to the bridge of her nose and cheek plane to brighten and highlight.

» **Brows:** They get an application of powder to intensify but not overdramatize them.

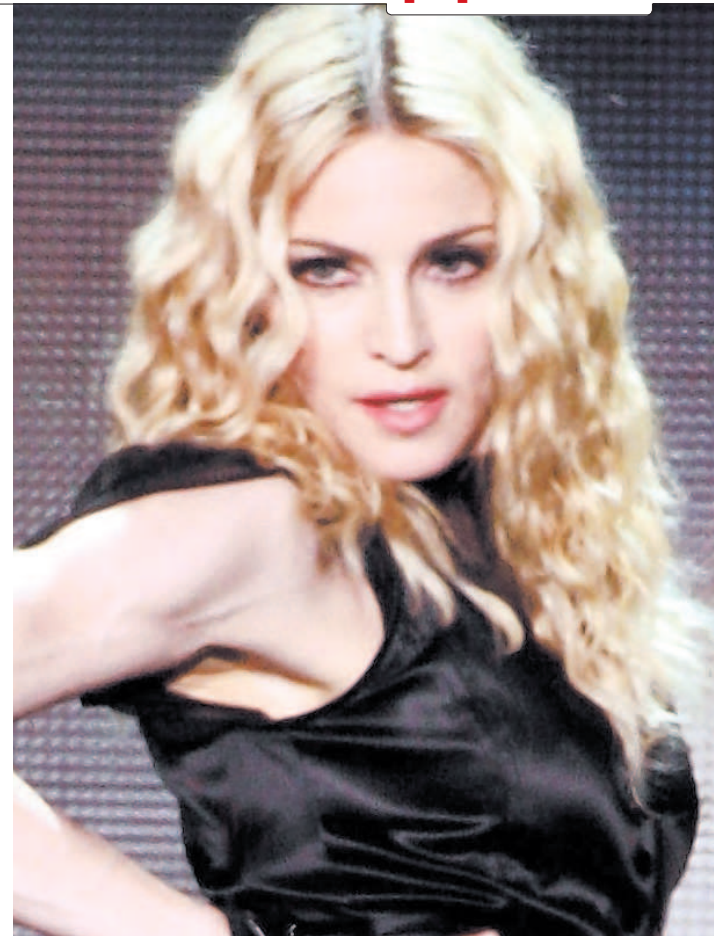
» **Blush:** Powder in the shade MPink 31 is brushed on the apples of the cheeks.

» **Lips:** Nude 908 lip liner is followed by Rouge Unlimited BG 949, "a beautiful creamy lip color that goes on matte but feels creamy, especially in the wintertime," Brooke says.

» **Eyes:** Brooke uses Shu Uemura's Liquid Eyeliner Pen, applied in a thin line at the inner corner and thicker as it extends beyond the eye. The lower lid also is lined.

Eye shadow application starts with M800, a matte beige applied at the base of the lid. Over it goes IR900, a dark metallic shadow; and then ME900, a black shadow. All of it is blended to create a gunmetal metallic effect.

After brushing on mascara, Brooke applies false lashes—her choice for Madonna is a set called Smoky Layers. By putting mascara on first, you have the length and thickness, then you add the lashes to get a furry, soft, doe-eyed look," she says.



Madonna and her makeup stylist have developed a quick routine to keep the pop star looking her best at all of her shows. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Testing 3: 2 mascaras, 1 eye cream

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Estee Lauder's TurboLash All Effects Motion Mascara, touted as having the world's first self-powered brush, claims to be the ultimate lash booster: lengthening, adding volume, curling and separating all at once. It took some time to get accustomed to the incessant buzz of the wand's motor, which sounded like a fly circling my head. But after a week, my doubts had disappeared, and my lashes were curlier and thicker. In the end, I'm not sure what I love more about this mascara: its clump-free formula or the vibrating brush.

KATHLEEN HOM, THE WASHINGTON POST



GIVENCHY PHENOMEN'EYES MASCARA
\$27 at Sephora stores and sephora.com

I really wanted to love Givenchy's new mascara with its reimagined brush. Indeed, the brush gets an A-plus: Its spherical tip is easy to maneuver into the very corners of the lash lines, and the spikes, while somewhat intimidating, excel at grasping each and every lash. But sadly, this is one instance when the formula fails. The watery solution smudged quickly and clumped my lashes into spidery spokes.

MICHELLE THOMAS, THE WASHINGTON POST



GARNIER NUTRITIONISTE UNDER-EYE GEL
About \$13 at drugstores, mass retailers and drugstore.com

I immediately was fascinated with Garnier's Skin Renew Anti-Puff Eye Roller, a futuristic roller-ball gadget with a no-mess application and a cooling, caffeine-infused gel. Three weeks later, my eyes are still puffy and a bit raccoon-like when I wake up. I have diligently rolled on the stuff every morning and night, though. So while what's inside the tube didn't work for me, the gimmick did: I've finally started a habit I can stick with. Now to find a formula that works.

HOLLY E. THOMAS, THE WASHINGTON POST



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G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested
PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
NC-17 - No one 17 and under admitted

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
(312) 255-9340
Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 1:30,2:30,4:15,5:15,7:00,8:00,9:45,10:45
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 1:40,2:40,4:00,5:00,6:30,7:30,9:00,10:00
- Soul Men (R) 3:00,5:40,8:10,10:50
- Role Models (R) 2:15,4:50,7:45,10:30
- AMC Select Changeling (R) 3:45,7:15,10:20
- Zack and Miri (R) 2:50,5:30,8:20,11:00
- AMC Select The Duchess (PG-13) 2:00,6:50
- AMC Select Burn After Rd. (R) 4:30,9:30

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- Slumdog Mill (R) 1:45,2:30,4:35,5:30,7:25,8:30,10:20
- Let the Right (R) 2:05,4:50,7:35,10:25
- Synecdoche (R) 1:50,4:40,7:30,10:20
- Happy-Go-Lucky (R) 2:00,4:45,7:30,10:15
- Noah's Arc (R) 2:20,4:30,7:00,10:00
- Rachel Getting (R) 2:10,4:55,7:40,10:25

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)

2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- Doctor Atomic (NR) 7:00
- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 12:30,1:00,1:40,2:30,3:20,3:50,4:30,5:20,6:10,6:40,7:20,8:10,9:00,9:30,10:10,10:50
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 12:20,12:50,1:20,1:50,2:40,3:10,3:40,4:10,5:00,5:30,6:05,6:30,7:30,8:00,8:30,9:10,9:40,10:00,10:40
- Soul Men (R) 1:30,4:20,7:00,9:50
- Haunting-Molly (PG-13) 1:10,6:50
- Zack and Miri (R) 2:20,4:40,7:10,10:20
- HS Musical 3 (G) 2:00,4:50,7:40,10:30
- Saw V (R) 12:40,3:30
- Max Payne (PG-13) 5:10,10:45
- Body of Lies (R) 2:10,7:50
- Nick and Norah (PG-13) 4:00,9:20

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 5:30,7:45,10:00
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 5:30,7:30,9:30
- Role Models (R) 5:20,7:30,9:50
- W. (PG-13) 4:45,7:15,9:45
- Twilight (PG-13)
- Bolt (PG)

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago
(773) 582-1839

Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 1:00,1:55,3:20,4:15,6:10,7:00,9:00,9:45
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 1:00,1:45,2:30,3:00,4:10,4:50,5:30,6:30,7:20,8:00,8:50,9:35
- Soul Men (R) 1:20,2:20,3:50,5:00,6:20,7:30,9:05,10:00
- Role Models (R) 1:50,4:35,7:05,9:30
- Haunting-Molly (PG-13) 1:15,3:30,5:40,7:50,10:00
- Saw V (R) 1:10,3:15,5:20,7:40,9:55
- HS Musical 3 (G) 1:40,4:20,7:10,9:50
- AMC Select Secret of Bees (PG-13) 2:10,4:40,7:15,9:40
- BH Chihuahua (PG) 2:00,4:30,7:00,9:10
- Eagle Eye (PG-13) 1:30,4:00,6:50,9:20

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- Story-Chryss. (NR) 6:00

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312-642-2403

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LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

- The Dark Knight (PG-13) 2:15,5:30,8:20
- BH Chihuahua (PG) 2:10,4:15,6:20,8:30
- Eagle Eye (PG-13) 2:00,4:10,6:25,8:40
- Burn After Rd. (R) 2:00,4:05,6:05,8:10

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

- Ashes of (R) 5:20,7:30,9:40
- Tell No One (NR) 5:00,7:20,9:45

PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago
(312) 642-7500

Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- Dostana (NR) 6:30 P.M.
- JCVD (R) 1:00,3:10,5:15,7:30
- AMC Select RocknRolla (R) 1:00,3:55
- I've Loved You (PG-13) 1:30,4:10,6:45
- AMC Select W. (PG-13) 4:25,7:15
- AMC Select Vicky Cristina (PG-13) 2:10 P.M.

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street
847-765-7262

Show times change daily

- Striped Pajamas (PG-13) 1:10,2:10,3:40,4:40,6:00,8:40
- Doctor Atomic (NR) 7:00 P.M.
- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 1:00,1:30,2:00,2:30,3:00,4:00,4:30,5:00,5:30,6:00,7:00,8:00,8:30,9:00,9:30,10:30
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 2:15,3:25,5:00,7:45,10:30
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 1:25,4:15,7:00,9:45
- Soul Men (R) 1:05,3:50,6:20,8:50
- Role Models (R) 1:00,2:15,3:30,5:05,6:05,7:50,8:55,10:40
- AMC Select RocknRolla (R) 4:15,10:20
- AMC Select Changeling (R) 1:15,2:00,5:10,7:20,8:20
- Zack and Miri (R) 1:50,4:20,6:50,9:20
- Haunting-Molly (PG-13) 10:45 P.M.
- HS Musical 3 (G) 1:05,3:45,6:45,9:30
- AMC Select Let the Right (R) 1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10
- AMC Select Secret of Bees (PG-13) 1:00,3:35,6:15,8:50
- AMC Select W. (PG-13) 1:20,7:15
- AMC Select Rachel Getting (R) 1:50,4:35,7:20,10:05
- Eagle Eye (PG-13) 4:25,10:45

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Skokie
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 12:30,1:10,1:40,2:10,3:30,4:00,4:30,5:00,6:20,6:50,7:20,7:50,9:10,9:40,10:10,10:40
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 12:10,12:40,1:30,2:00,2:30,3:00,3:50,4:20,4:50,5:20,6:10,6:40,7:10,7:40,8:30,9:00,9:30,10:00
- Role Models (R) 2:20,5:15,7:45,10:15
- Soul Men (R) 1:50,4:40,7:30,9:55
- Haunting-Molly (PG-13) 2:45,5:10,8:00,10:20
- Changeling (R) 12:00,12:50,3:15,4:45,6:45,8:20,9:50
- Zack and Miri (R) 12:15,3:10,6:05,8:50
- Pride and Glory (R) 12:20,3:20,6:15,9:20
- HS Musical 3 (G) 1:20,4:10,7:00,9:45
- Saw V (R) 3:40,6:30,9:15
- BH Chihuahua (PG) 1:00
- Rachel Getting (R) 12:45,3:45,7:15,10:05

WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 12:40,1:40,2:20,3:30,4:30,5:15,6:30,7:20,8:00,9:30,10:10,10:40
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 12:20,1:30,2:40,4:00,5:00,6:40,7:15,9:00,9:40
- Role Models (R) 2:10,5:20,7:50,10:20
- Changeling (R) 12:30,2:50,3:40,6:10,7:00,9:20,10:05
- Zack and Miri (R) 2:30,5:10,7:40,10:15
- HS Musical 3 (G) 1:10,3:50,6:50,9:50
- Body of Lies (R) 1:50,4:40,7:30,10:30

SHOWPLACE 14 - GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 1:20,1:50,4:00,4:30,5:00,7:20,9:40,10:10
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 12:20,12:50,2:00,2:40,3:10,4:20,5:00,5:30,6:40,7:10,7:50,9:10,9:50,10:20
- Role Models (R) 1:30,4:40,7:30,10:00
- Soul Men (R) 12:45,1:40,3:30,4:10,6:20,7:00,9:00,9:45
- Haunting-Molly (PG-13) 1:15,3:40,6:45,9:30
- Zack and Miri (R) 2:30,5:10,7:40,10:30
- Pride and Glory (R) 1:00,4:15,7:15,10:15
- HS Musical 3 (G) 1:10,3:50,6:30,9:20
- Saw V (R) 2:40,5:15,7:45,10:20
- Max Payne (PG-13) 2:15,5:20,8:00,10:40

CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)

4779 W. Cermak
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 1:10,1:40,2:10,4:00,4:30,5:00,6:50,7:20,7:50,9:40,10:10,10:40
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 12:10,12:40,1:30,2:00,2:30,3:00,3:50,4:20,4:50,5:20,6:10,6:40,7:10,7:40,8:40,9:10,9:45,10:15
- Role Models (R) 1:50,4:45,7:30,10:00
- Soul Men (R) 12:50,1:20,3:30,4:10,6:45,7:15,9:20,9:55
- Haunting-Molly (PG-13) 1:00,3:40,6:30,9:15
- Zack and Miri (R) 2:20,5:15,8:00,10:30
- HS Musical 3 (G) 1:15,4:15,7:00,9:50
- Saw V (R) 2:40,5:10,7:45,10:20

OAK PARK

LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street
630-444-FILM #560

- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 12:00,2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 1:05,3:10,5:15,7:20,9:25
- Rachel Getting (R) 2:10,4:40,7:10,9:40
- Changeling (R) 1:00,4:00,7:00,10:00
- Zack and Miri (R) 5:10,9:45
- HS Musical 3 (G) 1:55,4:20,6:45,9:10
- Secret of Bees (PG-13) 12:10,2:35,7:25

EVANSTON

CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)

1715 MAPLE AVE.
(847)492-0123

- Doctor Atomic (NR) 7:00
- Morning Light (PG) 4:00,9:50
- Quantum-Sol. (PG-13) 12:00,12:50,1:50,2:40,3:40,4:30,5:20,6:20,7:10,8:00,9:00,9:50,10:40
- Striped Pajamas (PG-13) 12:10,2:40,5:05,7:30,9:55
- Changeling (R) 12:20,3:30,6:40,9:45
- Happy-Go-Lucky (R) 12:55,4:20,7:10,10:00
- HS Musical 3 (G) 11:40,2:15,5:00,7:40,10:25
- Madagascar 2 (PG) 11:30,12:15,1:00,2:30,3:20,4:55,5:40,7:15,7:55,9:35,10:20
- Rachel Getting (R) 11:45,2:25,5:15,7:50,10:30
- Role Models (R) 11:35,12:45,2:05,3:15,4:35,7:00,9:30
- Slumdog Mill (R) 11:10,4:05,5:25,7:00,8:20,10:05
- Soul Men (R) 11:50,5:05,10:15
- Synecdoche (R) 12:45,4:10,7:20,10:10
- Secret of Bees (PG-13) 2:20,7:35
- W. (PG-13) 12:50,6:50
- Zack and Miri (R) 11:55,2:35,5:10,7:45,10:15

Where to go for entertainment? Start here.



What to Watch

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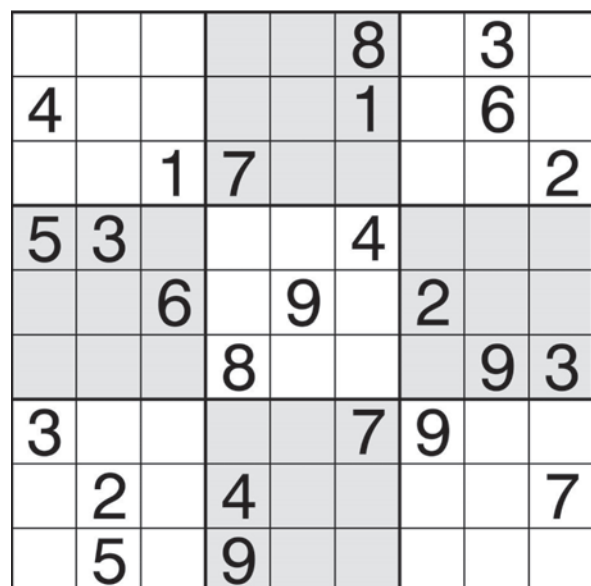
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9	6	1	2	7	8	5	4	3
4	7	9	1	3	2	8	5	6
8	3	5	4	6	7	9	1	2
2	1	6	8	9	5	7	3	4

TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

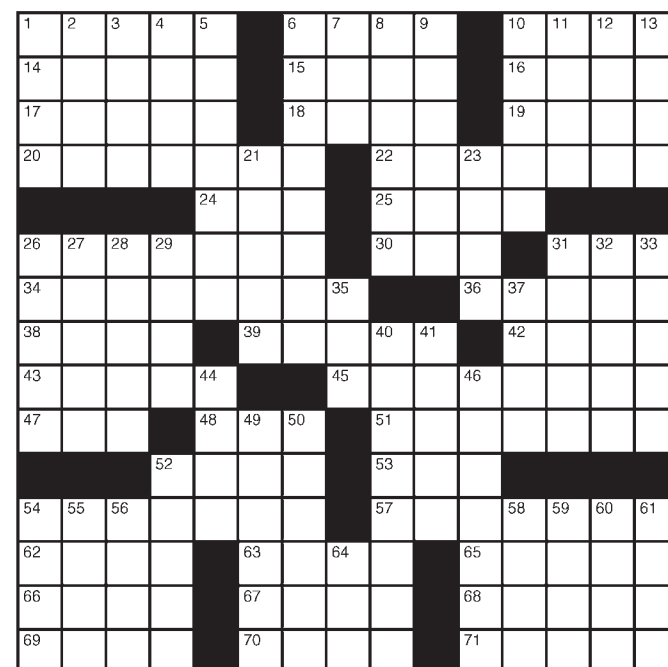
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ACROSS

- 1 Nebraska city
- 6 Jaffe and Huff
- 10 Used leeches
- 14 Correct software
- 15 Family chart
- 16 "Damn Yankees" gal
- 17 Greek letter
- 18 Remainder
- 19 Saudi man
- 20 Deciphering stone
- 22 Pollen carriers
- 24 Duped
- 25 Glamour rival
- 26 Event official
- 30 Aug. follower
- 31 Distress signal
- 34 Sprays
- 36 Norman's nickname
- 38 Just around the corner
- 39 Razz
- 42 German automaker
- 43 Ivory items
- 45 United firmly
- 47 Uncouth clod
- 48 JFK follower
- 51 British enlisted soldiers
- 52 Stead
- 53 Ebullience
- 54 Jason or Justine
- 57 "Take Me Down" group
- 62 Superior's inferior?
- 63 Young adult
- 65 Leafy course
- 66 Cocoon fiber
- 67 Bridge position
- 68 Stop, look and look?
- 69 Mineo and Maglie
- 70 Worn grooves
- 71 Twisty turns

DOWN

- 1 Nose alert
- 2 Brief note
- 3 Fortas and Lincoln
- 4 Overwhelming
- 5 Christie and others



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 6 Bestride | 28 Wipe out | 49 Jalopy |
| 7 "Chances..." (Mathis hit) | 29 Job to do | 50 Alaskan capital |
| 8 Army meals | 31 Pan-fry | 52 Onions' kin |
| 9 Sink to the bottom | 32 Command | 54 Armstrong or Myerson |
| 10 Point a finger at | 33 Dangerous slides | 55 Operatic song |
| 11 Traditional wisdom | 35 U.S. defense grp. | 56 Cash drawer |
| 12 Zest | 37 Bundle of yarn | 58 Louisville Sluggers |
| 13 Blots | 40 Domestics | 59 Lament's cry |
| 21 Fortune cards | 41 Communication option | 60 Stable female |
| 23 Austrian range | 44 Gracile | 61 Thirst quenchers |
| 26 Cruz, CA | 46 As a group | 64 Approx. |
| 27 Prepare to drive | | |



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Guest pass

TV shows hungry for celeb star power

What do Kim Kardashian, Heidi Montag, Spencer Pratt and Kendra Wilkinson have in common?

They're all going to be guests on an upcoming episode of "How I Met Your Mother"—as if you haven't already heard!

The reality stars are slated to play ... themselves in an episode to air in January, according to reports.

Co-creator and executive producer Craig Thomas was mum on the details of what the crew would actually be doing in their appearance when CBS announced the Speidi cameo last week.

"We can confirm that Heidi and Spencer will appear on the show," Thomas told **people.com**, "but we can't give away anything specific about the episode. All we can say is that they play themselves, and one of them is The Mother."

Of course, "HIMYM" isn't the only show to recruit big names to try to boost its ratings. Here's a look at a few other recent celeb cameos in TV land.

DON'T FORGET DIDDY!

Sean "Diddy" Combs will make a TV cameo too. Read about it on **page 52**



CSI: NY

1 The crime drama celebrates its 100th episode Wednesday with slew of guest stars. On deck are Nelly, Chris Daughtry, Scott Wolf, Rumer Willis and Julia Ormond. Not bad for a show about blood and guts!

ELI STONE

2 Katie Holmes guest starred last month on the legal drama as a clumsy lawyer named Grace. She also got a dance number out of the deal.

30 ROCK

3 The brainchild of Tina Fey has had its fair share of big-name celeb guests. So far this season, Oprah Winfrey and Jennifer Aniston have dropped in on the cast. Steve Martin is slated to make an appearance too.

ENTOURAGE

4 The HBO series is all about the celebrity guest appearance. Michael Phelps made a, um, splash when it was announced he had a brief cameo this season.

MY NAME IS EARL

5 Former "Beverly Hills, 90210" heartthrob Jason Priestley popped up on an episode of the NBC comedy this month.

LAW & ORDER: SVU

6 Jesse McCartney showed up last week on the crime drama, and rapper Big Boi was a hit this week.

ER

7 The Chicago-based medical drama is pulling out all the stops with its guest stars this season. Former cast member Anthony Edwards has already shown up, and Noah Wyle is due on an upcoming episode.

KATH & KIM

8 Pamela Anderson reportedly will play herself in an upcoming scene with celebrity gossip-obsessed characters Kath (Molly Shannon) and Kim (Selma Blair).

WORST WEEK

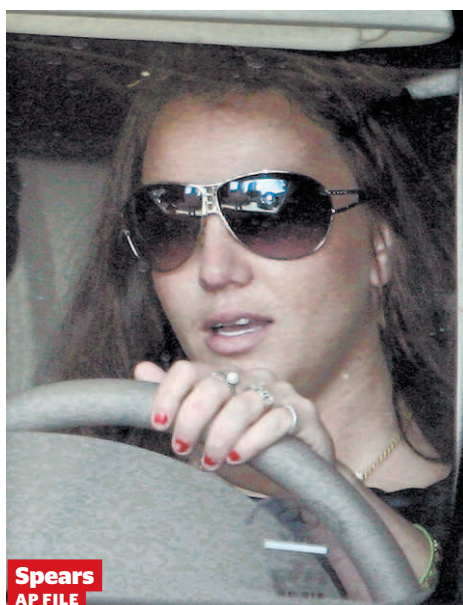
9 Comic actor Fred Willard appeared on the awkward CBS comedy on Monday, and he is set to show up on an episode of ABC's "Pushing Daisies" on Wednesday.

BROTHERS & SISTERS

10 Dave Foley appeared on the dysfunction-filled family drama Sunday, and he will appear Friday on Sci Fi's "Stargate Atlantis." Super cool.

CRIMINAL MINDS

11 A barely recognizable Jason Alexander is due on CBS' "Criminal Minds" on Wednesday.



Spears
AP FILE

Spears' private 'Groundhog Day'

It's been a year of highs and lows for Britney Spears, and she's the first to admit it. "I have really good days, and then I have bad days," the pop singer, 26, says in a new documentary that chronicled the making of her new album "Circus," according to excerpts on people.com. After her public meltdown, she struggled to get her act together. "Even when you go to jail, y'know, there's the time when you're gonna get out. But in this situation, it's never-ending. It's just like [the Bill Murray movie] 'Groundhog Day.' ... I'm having to pay for it for a really long time."

Kidman's simple life?

Is Nicole Kidman channeling Angelina Jolie? The Oscar-winning actress, who earlier this year gave birth to daughter Sunday Rose, recently hinted at a life with less acting, more babies. "I'm in a place in my life where I've had some great opportunities—but I may just choose to have some more children," Kidman said at Tuesday's Sydney premiere of her new movie "Australia," people.com reported. "There's many things I want to do besides act."

Cowboys' biggest fan

Tony Romo isn't the first Dallas Cowboy that Jessica Simpson crushed on. "I grew up in Dallas so I ... [had] a crush on Troy Aikman, who was the quarterback at the time," the singer said on Ellen DeGeneres' show Tuesday. "The Dallas Cowboys quarterback, I think there's a requirement, like you have to be good looking."



Simpson

Take that, mean girls

You know what they say: Living well is the best revenge, and Taylor Swift seems to be getting the last laugh. The hot country star says in the December issue of Women's Health, "A lot of girls thought I was weird. Actually, the word they liked to use was annoying. I'd sit at their lunch table and they'd move to a different one," she said, according to excerpts on usmagazine.com.

Spice it up

Mel B is getting spicy again. The former Scary Spice is slated to star in "PEEPSHOW" this spring at Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. "The show is like a burlesque, sexy woman/girl power adventure," Melanie Brown told "Access Hollywood." Brown, who starts rehearsals in February, will co-star with "General Hospital's" Kelly Monaco.



Mel B



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Celebrity twin

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send your picture along with the name of the celeb who shares your style to dlhernandez@tribune.com. For Wednesday, we have Timothy Mathews. Think he's a ringer for Marques Houston? Text "twin" and the number of your opinion to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

1. DEAD ON

2. WAY OFF



Mathews



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TV
writer

Seth Rogen wrote three episodes for what now-defunct TV show? Text "show" and the number of your answer to **47383**. You'll get a text telling you whether you got it right.

1. "Freaks and Geeks"
2. "Weeds"
3. "Undeclared"
4. "Dawson's Creek"

After making a big-screen movie about porn, Seth Rogen is bringing more raunchy comedy—this time to the small screen.

The "Zack and Miri Make a Porno" actor, along with partner Evan Goldberg, is developing a series for Showtime about

three twentysomethings who try to figure out life and love while running a porn shop, Variety reported.

The duo, who also are working on "Jay and Seth vs. the Apocalypse," also will executive produce the as-yet-untitled project.

THE VELVET ROPE



Combs

'Miami' heat

Watch out, fictional criminals of Miami: Diddy is coming for you. Sean "Diddy" Combs is set to star in a two-episode

arc of "CSI: Miami" this season, according to The Associated Press. Combs will play a prosecutor who doesn't see eye-to-eye with police Lt. Horatio Caine, played by David Caruso. The episodes will air sometime in mid- to late winter.

» More TV guest appearances. **Page 50**



Pattinson

Kiss-and-tell

Robert Pattinson may have a deadly bite, but he's "a really bad kisser."

The "Twilight" hottie, who plays vampire

Edward Cullen in the upcoming movie, tells Seventeen magazine that shooting his make-out scenes with co-star Kristen Stewart was scary.

"Yeah, I mean, it's terrifying," he says in the Dec./Jan. issue of Seventeen magazine. "Especially when ... you've got to do it at a weird angle or something."

Men of honor

Surprise, surprise: GQ magazine has named Barack Obama one of its Men of the Year.

The president-elect joins Michael Phelps, Leonardo DiCaprio and Jon Hamm as cover men in the December issues, which will hit newsstands Tuesday. "Transformers" star Megan Fox, dubbed "Obsession of the Year," was the only woman to crash the boys' club.

«Two

That's how many times Justin Timberlake rehearsed his dancing bit with Beyonce on last weekend's "Saturday Night Live," the songstress said, according to People magazine.



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